

EXHIBIT A<sub>1</sub>

1                   UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2                   DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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3 Cheryl Sagataw, DeAnthony Barnes,  
4 Roberta Strong, Travis Neloms,  
5 on behalf of themselves and  
all others similarly situated,

6                   Plaintiffs,  
7                   vs.    Case No. 24-cv-0001 (ECT/TNL)

9 Jacob Frey,

10                   Defendant.

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14                   VIDEOCONFERENCE RULE 30(B) (6)

15                   DEPOSITION OF **CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

16                   BY ITS DESIGNEE

17                   **ENRIQUE VELAZQUEZ**

18                   December 10, 2024

19                   9:00 a.m.

25                   Reported by: Melissa A. Chamberlin, RPR

|    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 1  | I N D E X  |      |
| 2  | EXAMINATION  | PAGE |
| 3  | Ms. Kelley   | 4    |
| 4  |  |      |
| 5  | EXHIBITS MARKED:                                   |      |
| 6  |  |      |
| 7  | None   |      |
| 8  |  |      |
| 9  | OBJECTIONS:  |      |
| 10 |  |      |
| 11 | Ms. Enslin: Pages: 18, 21, 22, 28, 67, 74, 75, 76, |      |
| 12 | 92, 100, 154, 192, 201, 202                        |      |
| 13 |  |      |
| 14 | INFORMATION/DOCUMENT REQUEST:                      |      |
| 15 |  |      |
| 16 | None   |      |
| 17 |  |      |
| 18 | INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO ANSWER:                        |      |
| 19 |  |      |
| 20 | None   |      |
| 21 |  |      |
| 22 | COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:                      | 224  |
| 23 |  |      |
| 24 | DEPOSITION CORRECTION SHEET:                       | 225  |
| 25 |  |      |

Enrique Velazquez

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of the Plaintiffs:

3  
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13 ALSO PRESENT: Karmen McQuitty

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25 \* \* \* \* \*

26 The following is the videoconference  
27 Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of **City of Minneapolis** by its  
28 designee **Enrique Velazquez**, taken pursuant to Notice of  
29 Taking Deposition, before Melissa A. Chamberlin, RPR and  
30 Remote Notary Public in the State of Minnesota,  
31 commencing at 9:00 a.m., December 10, 2024.

December 10, 2024

Granite City Reporting \* (320) 290-5183 \* ruthofgcr@gmail.com

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1 (Reporter's Note: This deposition is  
2 subject to the limitations associated with the  
3 use of technology, including but not limited to  
4 telephone and video signal interference, freezing,  
5 static, signal interruptions, and other  
6 restrictions and limitations associated with remote  
7 court reporting via telephone, speakerphone and/or  
8 videoconference.)

16 | THE WITNESS: I do.

17 | \*\*\*

## **EXAMINATION**

19 BY MS. KELLEY:

20 Q. Thank you for -- for being here. Just to start  
21 things off, my name is Kira Kelley, and I represent  
22 the plaintiffs in this case.

23 You are here for a noticed organizational  
24 deposition under Rule 30(b)(6).

Today is December 10, 2024. We have a court

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1 reporter here to make a precise record of these  
2 proceedings.

3 And just some housekeeping. I -- I'm hoping  
4 to work together with you to make the court  
5 reporter's job as easy as possible. So I'm going  
6 to do my best not to talk over you and -- and  
7 vice versa. And if you could respond to questions  
8 with a "yes" or a "no" rather than like an "uh-huh"  
9 or a "nope," those are harder -- or a nod.  
10 Things -- so just a verbal "yes" or "no" if you're  
11 responding to a question like that.

12 And you might predict where I'm going with a  
13 question. But just to keep the record clear, if  
14 you could let me finish it, even if you already  
15 know where it's going.

16 And if you don't understand what I'm asking  
17 you, that's totally fine. Please just ask me to  
18 clarify, and I'll do my best.

19 If you don't ask for clarification, then I  
20 will assume that you are understanding the  
21 question.

22 Does all -- does all that sound okay?

23 A. Yes. Understood.

24 Q. Okay. And I'm hoping that we can commit to getting  
25 through this efficiently and amicably. I want to

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1 honor everyone's time to be here and -- and  
2 humanity.

3 So if we need breaks, please ask. And that  
4 goes for other attorneys on the call and -- and the  
5 court reporter. If you -- for any reason,  
6 something's going on, you need to go to the  
7 bathroom, get water, get a snack, like, please say  
8 something, and we'll take a break.

9 That -- also, if -- if it makes sense to maybe  
10 plan for, like, a lunch break at noon if we get  
11 that far, does that work for everyone else?

12 A. Yes. Sounds good.

13 MS. ENSLIN: (Attorney nods head.)

14 BY MS. KELLEY:

15 Q. Okay. And -- yeah. Is "Mr. Velazquez" the best  
16 way to address you, or what's your preference?

17 A. Yes. "He," "him," "his" pronouns. "Enrique" works  
18 fine for me as well.

19 Q. Okay. And are you clearheaded today for this  
20 deposition? Is there any reason that -- that you  
21 might not be able to -- to remember things or speak  
22 clearly, sleep deprivation, changes in medication,  
23 anything like that?

24 A. Nothing of the sort. No.

25 Q. Okay. Thank you. So let's -- let's get started.

Enrique Velazquez

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1           Would you please just state your name for the  
2 record?

3 A. Certainly. My name is Enrique Velazquez.

4 Q. And, Mr. Velazquez, what's your job title or  
5 titles?

6 A. My title is the Director of Regulatory Services.

7 Q. Where is that?

8 A. For the City of Minneapolis.

9 Q. Okay. And how long have you been in that position?

10 A. I have served as the City's Director of Regulatory  
11 Services for a little more than one year, starting  
12 October 5, 2023.

13 Q. And where did you work before that?

14 A. Prior to assuming the role of Director of  
15 Regulatory Services, I was Director of Inspections  
16 Services, which is one of the divisions within  
17 Regulatory Services, and served in that capacity  
18 from August 1, 2022, until my appointment as  
19 Director of Regulatory Services in October.

20 Q. What -- what precipitated the -- the move? Was  
21 there anything?

22 A. There was organ- -- organizational changes that  
23 happened where the previous Director of  
24 Regulatory Services took a promotion as a Deputy  
25 City Operations Officer, which created the vacancy.

Enrique Velazquez

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1           So I applied and was appointed into the role.

2 Q.       Congrats. And were you working for the City prior  
3           to that -- prior to that 2022 date?

4 A.       Yes. I joined the City of Minneapolis on May 9,  
5           2016. My first three years were within Public  
6           Works, Surface Water & Sewers division. And then I  
7           moved over to Community Planning and Economic  
8           Development as the manager of Business Licensing  
9           and Consumer Services in 2019 -- May of 2019 --

10 Q.       Okay. And --

11 A.       -- and I moved from there into Regulatory Services  
12           as the Director of Inspections Services.

13 Q.       What's -- what is -- is there any educational  
14           background that's relevant to your work with the  
15           City?

16 A.       Yes. So I hold a master's in business  
17           administration with a focus in nonprofit and public  
18           management, a bachelor's in business administration  
19           with focus areas in project management and finance.  
20           And then I hold a certificate with the Economic  
21           Development Institute with the University of  
22           Oklahoma.

23 Q.       And generally speaking, what are the duties and  
24           responsibilities of your current job?

25 A.       So the duties and responsibilities of my current

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1           role are to oversee four specific business units.  
2           Inspections Services, which oversees housing,  
3           rental property inspections, commercial building  
4           inspections, high-occupancy dwelling unit  
5           inspections, special events, hazardous material  
6           response, spill response, vacant buildings, vacant  
7           and blighted buildings to make sure that they are  
8           not occupied and that they progress on a path  
9           towards habitability again. That's one division.

10           The second division is Traffic Control &  
11           Parking Management, which, as the name implies,  
12           they focus on making sure that there's ease of  
13           traffic flow and that parking regulations are  
14           adhered to.

15           Animal Care & Control, which oversees our  
16           veterinary services, sheltering services, fostering  
17           programs, and animal rescue and animal -- animal  
18           care within the city.

19           The fourth is Operations & Engagement, which  
20           includes multiple different aspects of our work  
21           that serves as the backbone. It's our customer  
22           service functions, our letter writing and  
23           engagement with communities, with business owners,  
24           with property owners, with rental license holders.  
25           It also incorporates our alternative enforcement,

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1 which oversees portfolio inspections of large  
2 suites of portfolios of properties that need to be  
3 handled in a specific way. It includes our housing  
4 and renter liaisons, which engage with renters who  
5 are experiencing some hardship with the property  
6 owners and then also engaging with property owners  
7 to resolve those specific issues and provide  
8 various levels of support for both parties so that  
9 we can prevent displacement at all possible and  
10 then provide an easy pathway for any individuals  
11 experiencing those kinds of hardships where they  
12 are at risk of being displaced.

13 And then the last unit within Operations &  
14 Engagement is our Homeless Response Team, which is  
15 one of the mechanisms for the City's response to  
16 unsheltered homelessness. And I oversee and am the  
17 facilitator of the City's response to unsheltered  
18 homelessness.

19 Q. Thank you. And did you spend any time preparing  
20 for today's deposition?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. And what did you do to prepare?

23 A. I met with my attorney, Ms. Enslin. We spent about  
24 three hours together. And then to refresh my  
25 memory on a couple of the different details, I met

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1 with Deputy Commissioner of Health Heidi Ritchie to  
2 review certain different aspects with respect to  
3 Helix Health and Human Services as well as the  
4 norovirus outbreak that occurred.

5 Q. And how -- about how long was the conversation  
6 with -- with that third person who wasn't  
7 Attorney Enslin?

8 A. That conversation lasted between five to ten  
9 minutes.

10 Q. Okay. Did you exchange any documents with that  
11 person?

12 A. No, I did not.

13 Q. Or look at any documents?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And are you here testifying on behalf of the City  
16 of Minneapolis?

17 A. Yes, I am.

18 Q. Are you represented by Attorney Enslin in this  
19 case?

20 A. Yes, I am.

21 Q. All right. Do you have other -- any other legal  
22 representatives?

23 A. Let's see. So we have Kristin Sarff and . . . Who  
24 is the --

25 MS. ENSLIN: I think -- Kira, do you want

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1 to clarify if you mean outside of the City  
2 Attorney's Office?

3 MS. KELLEY: Sure. Yeah. It --  
4 you're --

5 MS. ENSLIN: Because we're --

6 MS. KELLEY: Well, we'll --

7 MS. ENSLIN: -- just one unit. So we  
8 represent everybody as an office.

9 So I think you might be referring -- the  
10 deponent might be referring to other folks from  
11 this office.

12 But I think what you're getting at is  
13 does he have representation outside the City  
14 Attorney's Office?

15 Am I -- and maybe I'm wrong. So sorry --  
16 so I'm sorry to interrupt. I just -- I -- I -- I  
17 sense where he was struggling to -- to find the  
18 right name, and I wanted to help.

19 MS. KELLEY: That's my next question.

20 But feel free to respond, Mr. Velazquez.

21 A. I am not represented by any other entities outside  
22 of the City Attorney's Office.

23 BY MS. KELLEY:

24 Q. Okay. And next, I'm going to get into some  
25 questions about the Operational Guidance,

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1                   Encampment Response on City-Owned Properties, which  
2                   was -- which you submitted as an exhibit to a  
3                   declaration.

4                   Are you -- are you familiar with that policy?

5 A.           Yes, I am familiar with the document.

6 Q.           The December 16, 2022, document, just so that we're  
7                   all on the same page?

8 A.           Yes.

9 Q.           Okay. Who wrote that?

10 A.           So the City Operations Guide was written by the  
11                   interim manager for the homeless and encampment  
12                   response program, Christina Dowling, with  
13                   assistance from me and a few other individuals.

14 Q.           Do you remember any of those other individuals?

15 A.           Let's see. I believe Blair Foy, who was  
16                   communications manager. She has since left -- left  
17                   the City.

18                   And Kira Hasbargen, who, at the time, was the  
19                   Director of Operations & Engagement. She has since  
20                   moved into a different capacity. Still with the  
21                   City of Minneapolis, just in a different capacity  
22                   now. Those are the names that I recall.

23 Q.           And aside from the -- the people who drafted it,  
24                   who else had input on it?

25 A.           I would imagine that legal counsel also had input

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1           into -- or at least reviewed the document as well  
2           as representatives from the Mayor's office and  
3           Community Planning and Economic Development. I  
4           can't recall specifically who, but I -- I can at  
5           least on the surface say these are some of the  
6           different areas in which they would have provided  
7           some input.

8 Q.       Do you remember the -- the means by which that  
9           input was solicited or -- or provided?

10 A.       Most likely it was provided through a shared  
11          document where others could review the document and  
12          then make any sort of comments or editorial  
13          changes --

14 Q.       Okay.

15 A.       -- before it was finalized.

16 Q.       Like a Google doc?

17 A.       It would have been a Microsoft Word document on a  
18          SharePoint or OneDrive.

19 Q.       Okay. And how involved was the rest of your  
20          department in crafting this policy?

21 A.       Outside of the individuals named, no others were  
22          really involved in the crafting of the document.

23 Q.       Okay. Did you look to any -- did you or the other  
24          crafters look towards other sources of information  
25          to inform the policy decisions you were making?

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1 A. So if I understand the question, you're asking if  
2 we looked at -- at any other sources outside of the  
3 City or other municipalities?

4 Q. Thank you for seeking clarification. This is  
5 great. Let me rephrase.

6 If -- as you -- as you were all crafting this  
7 document, what was informing the decisions you were  
8 making?

9 A. So a few different factors. We saw an increase in  
10 attention from City Council and community members  
11 wondering what exactly it was that we were doing  
12 with respect to -- what was our approach.

13 So rather than continually answer the same  
14 questions or similar questions, we want to make it  
15 as transparent as possible so that our internal  
16 stakeholders within the City, with our elected  
17 leaders, as well as community members would have a  
18 pathway so they could understand how we approached  
19 this work, the sensitivity that went into the work,  
20 how we were placing individuals at the center of  
21 the work, and what our process generally was.

22 As -- so that was kind of the -- the premise.

23 And then as we started to pull in those  
24 details, we also looked externally to some other  
25 municipalities to see, okay, how are others -- how

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1       are -- our peers within this area, the Twin Cities  
2       area, how are they communicating what they do, and  
3       do they have a public-facing document? Or, you  
4       know, if they share any details, what exactly do  
5       they share and to what extent? Just so that we  
6       can --

7   Q.    Yeah.

8   A.    -- make sure we're transparent and, at the same  
9       time, not placing our own staff at risk by sharing  
10      too much information that could be --

11   Q.    Were you --

12   A.    -- exploited.

13   Q.    Oh, sorry.

14                  Were you in communication with these other  
15      municipalities?

16   A.    I -- yes. I'm in regular communication with my  
17      counterpart in the City of St. Paul.

18   Q.    Okay. And when you looked at how other  
19      municipalities were doing this, was that just by  
20      reviewing public-facing documents?

21   A.    Initially it was by reviewing public-facing  
22      documents. And then if we had some additional  
23      questions, then it was reaching out by email or  
24      scheduling a meeting or a phone call just to try  
25      and learn a little bit more about how they arrived

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1 at that specific decision to share information X  
2 versus Y or what -- what was appearing below the  
3 surface versus above the surface.

4 Q. And do you have -- do you remember what -- what  
5 other towns or munic- -- municipalities were they?

6 A. Here in the Twin Cities, primarily the City of  
7 St. Paul, since they're the second largest city in  
8 the metropolitan area.

9 Other cities did not have public-facing  
10 information that we could see at that time.

11 Spanning more broadly, we did evaluate the  
12 City of Seattle, City of Milwaukee, others that are  
13 comparable size that we know that they have some  
14 level of robust engagement on the response to  
15 unsheltered homelessness.

16 Q. And who from the Mayor's office reviewed this  
17 document before it was finalized?

18 A. It would have been one of the policy directors who  
19 has since left the City, Peter Ebnet, E-b-n-e-t.

20 Q. Do you remember what input, if any, Peter gave to  
21 that -- to the draft?

22 A. So Peter's input would have been reviewing the --  
23 the shared document and then also providing some  
24 additional advice on different municipalities to  
25 engage with if there were others that we needed to

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1 seek input from just to make sure that we provided  
2 as robust of a document as possible.

3 Q. Did Peter have any specific concerns with the  
4 document?

5 A. Not to my recollection.

6 Q. And prior to December 16, 2022, when that document  
7 was adopted, were there other policies in place  
8 governing the City's interactions with unhoused  
9 encampments on its properties?

10 A. So let me begin by saying the document itself is  
11 not so much a -- a policy. It's our operating  
12 guidance. It's our -- it's our practice.

13 And what the document does is it memorializes  
14 how we have been operating. So that was the focus  
15 of the document.

16 So our -- our policy, if you will, had not  
17 really shifted or changed mu- -- much. It was just  
18 more of making sure that it's memorialized, it's  
19 visible, it's publicly accessible so that others  
20 who have an interest in this space can see exactly  
21 what the City's approach is to managing unsheltered  
22 homelessness and our overall response.

23 Q. So the -- there are policies that exist  
24 independently of this operational document?

25 MS. ENSLIN: Objection. Vague.

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1 MS. KELLEY: That would probably be more  
2 appropriate as a -- well, you can answer,  
3 Mr. Velazquez, and we'll deal with that later.

4 A. Sure. So there are policies that exist. It's up  
5 to our legislative body to develop the policies and  
6 then for our mayor to also either develop in tandem  
7 with our legislative body but also to adopt  
8 policies.

9 So as the administration or the staff within  
10 the administration, we do not necessarily set  
11 policies. We follow the policy. And the operating  
12 guidance is built upon those policies and -- and  
13 laws that are in place.

14 BY MS. KELLEY:

15 Q. Okay. I just have to clarify, Mr. Velazquez. When  
16 you say, "We don't set poli--" -- "policy." "We  
17 follow policy." Could you clarify who the "we" is?

18 A. Yes. The "we" is administration and staff.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So if we separate the City of Minneapolis into  
21 different parts, the legislative body is the  
22 City Council. The executive body is the Mayor and  
23 his cabinet. And then the administration are all  
24 of the staff who are -- are charged with -- and  
25 specifically Regulatory Services, who are charged

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1       with upholding the laws of the federal government,  
2       the State of Minnesota, and our own Minneapolis  
3       Code of Ordinances. So we uphold those laws which  
4       are, in effect, policies.

5   Q.    Okay. And have -- have those policies  
6       substantively changed in the past -- I guess we'll  
7       say your -- your tenure at -- in the City?

8   A.    Policies with respect to the response to  
9       unsheltered homelessness specifically?

10   Q.    Correct.

11   A.    No. These policies have not substantively changed.  
12       And, really, the governing policy we have is  
13       Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 244.60, which  
14       specifies that temporary dwelling structures -- or  
15       temporary structures that are erected for the  
16       purpose of human habitation are not permitted  
17       within the city of Minneapolis.

18   Q.    Are there other policies, whether formal or  
19       informal, that govern the process for sweeping  
20       encampments?

21   A.    Are there other policies that govern the process  
22       for sweeping encampments? So encampment closures?

23   Q.    (Attorney nods head.)

24   A.    There are no policies that are documented that  
25       outline the process or the practice in which City

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1 staff would close or clear encampments.

2 Q. Okay. Are there informal pol- -- like,  
3 undocumented policies that is -- for example, "This  
4 is the way that this is done, albeit not written  
5 down"?

6 A. I'll say that our process and our approach to  
7 encampment closure is documented in our City  
8 operating guide to unsheltered homelessness, the  
9 document that was referenced from December 2022.

10 Q. Is that binding on City employees in any way?

11 MS. ENSLIN: Objection to the extent it  
12 calls for a legal conclusion.

13 MS. KELLEY: You can answer,  
14 Mr. Velazquez.

15 MS. ENSLIN: You can answer.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay.

17 A. So with respect to the operating guidance, it's --  
18 it's guidance. Within the guidance, it also  
19 specifies that while we endeavor to meet all these  
20 specific objectives, there are some set parameters  
21 that might interfere with our ability to move  
22 forward with that.

23 So specifically, we evaluate four critical  
24 areas: public safety, public health, community  
25 livability, and then other environmental factors

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1           that might interfere with safe conduct or safe  
2           operation at these specific encampment locations.

3           So when public safety is -- places individuals  
4           at the encampments or immediate neighbors or those  
5           within the -- the main geographic area at risk,  
6           then we have to move promptly to resolve that  
7           situation, which can include immediate closure of  
8           the encampment, which goes against the guidance  
9           that's there that specifies that, you know, we will  
10          provide 72 hours advance notice, we'll provide  
11          notice in writing of the impending closure date.  
12          However, specific circumstances might predicate  
13          that we deviate from that, which is also documented  
14          in the operating guidance.

15 BY MS. KELLEY:

16 Q. So there is no policy requiring any specific amount  
17       of notice prior to closures?

18           MS. ENSLIN: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
19       the testimony.

20 A. Yeah, so the operating guidance specifies that we  
21       will endeavor to provide a 72-hour,  
22       three-business-day advance notice of -- of closure.

23           However, I want to -- I want to predicate that  
24       every single City-owned site at least is fenced, is  
25       posted "No Trespassing" with a reference to the

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1 specific code of ordinances that outlines what  
2 trespassing looks like and what property rights are  
3 and that any -- any who enter are considered to  
4 have been trespassed -- or are trespassing.

5 Therefore, that, by itself, is notice.

6 BY MS. KELLEY:

7 Q. Were any unhoused people involved in creating the  
8 Encampment Response, the -- the previously  
9 referenced Operational Guidance?

10 A. Any currently or previously unhoused individuals?

11 Q. First, currently -- or unhoused at the time of  
12 their -- their involvement in giving input.

13 A. No. No, not at the time that the document was  
14 drafted.

15 Q. How about people with experience being unhoused in  
16 the City of Minneapolis generally?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who -- do you remember who that individual or  
19 individuals was?

20 A. I do. That person is me.

21 Q. Mr. Velazquez, if I could just ask, like, a bit  
22 more of your -- your experience with houselessness.

23 A. Certainly. I found myself where my mother  
24 committed suicide. My father was living in  
25 Germany. And my step-father left the area, leaving

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1 me by myself for my last two and a half years of  
2 high school.

3 Then I went off to college with all of my  
4 belongings and couldn't afford to stay and returned  
5 to a -- a state where I was unsheltered and made  
6 friends on my way to Minnesota, having never been  
7 here before, who put me up and allowed me to sofa  
8 surf until I could get on my feet and start working  
9 again and eventually work my way back to college.

10 Q. Thank you for sharing that, Mr. Velazquez.

11 A. Certainly.

12 Q. And just -- sorry. I -- I want to be really clear  
13 with my prior question.

14 Aside from "twenty-two forty-four sixty," are  
15 there other policies that relate to encampment  
16 evictions or unsheltered houselessness in the City?

17 A. Other than Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 244.60,  
18 there are probably multiple different laws that  
19 relates to the specific area with respect to how  
20 property is used that would impact zoning  
21 ordinance.

22 Q. And just -- sorry. To -- to clarify again.

23 I don't mean laws that unhoused people might  
24 be violating by virtue of their status as unhoused  
25 persons, but rather, policies that govern how the

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1           City is required to interact with unhoused persons.

2 A.       I understand. There are no other policies or other  
3           ordinances in place that govern how the City  
4           responds to unsheltered homelessness.

5 Q.       And were there any people with -- with nonphysical  
6           and/or mental or intellectual disabilities who were  
7           involved in giving input into the -- the  
8           Operational Guidance policy as to -- or not  
9           policy -- the Operational Guidance document we  
10          discussed?

11 A.       Not to my knowledge, no.

12 Q.       And what steps has the City taken to ensure that  
13          the way that it conducts evictions of unhoused  
14          encampments is responsive to the needs of unhoused  
15          people with disabilities?

16 A.       Well, I can begin by saying that the City of  
17          Minneapolis has a Homeless Response Team that  
18          conducts outreach and engagement at each of the  
19          different encampments that are reported within the  
20          city. And the focus there is to do that initial  
21          triage of who are the people at the encampment,  
22          what's the makeup of the individuals, are there  
23          veterans, are -- are there elderly individuals, are  
24          there children or families? Try and make an  
25          assessment of any sort of barriers or language

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1 assessment -- or language needs or other -- other  
2 types of needs. And then engaging with  
3 Social Service and outreach partners from there.

4 So as part of that initial assessment that the  
5 team will make, they will make the appropriate  
6 connections, especially if they see that there are  
7 individuals who at least physically present as  
8 having some level of a disability. That also  
9 informs that when we do place porta-potties, that  
10 we make sure that there are accessible  
11 porta-potties so that that by itself does not  
12 pre- -- present a barrier to individuals who are at  
13 the encampments.

14 Q. When was the Homeless Response Team created?

15 A. So the Homeless Response Team, it has been kind of  
16 an evolution over the last, let's see, five years  
17 following The -- The Wall of Forgotten Natives  
18 encampment that occurred on Minnesota Department of  
19 Transportation property along the Highway 55 sound  
20 wall and Franklin.

21 It started with some individuals from various  
22 departments coming together. There was a  
23 representative from Community Planning and Economic  
24 Development, a representative from Public Works,  
25 another from the Mayor's office, another from the

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1           police department that just organically gravitated  
2           to one another.

3           And seeing that the work was continuing beyond  
4           this initial encampment, The Wall of Forgotten  
5           Natives -- Natives encampment specifically, there  
6           was a staffing position that was added within  
7           Community Planning and Economic Development to  
8           focus on that work.

9           A second position was added within the Health  
10          Department, and then another was added within the  
11          City Coordinator's Office.

12          And then over time, those three positions  
13          eventually came together in 2022 within  
14          Regulatory Services with a dedicated manager so  
15          that collectively there -- there was one Homeless  
16          Response Team and one response system versus  
17          segments of -- of a response system in various  
18          areas.

19          Q.       Those positions, you're saying that they moved into  
20          your department?

21          A.       Yes. That's correct.

22          Q.       Okay. And how -- how many people total make up the  
23          Homeless Response Team?

24          A.       The Homeless Response Team that's now within  
25          Regulatory Services is a four-person team. There's

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1           a manager, a lead Homeless Response Coordinator,  
2           and two additional Homeless Response Coordinators.

3           And depending on how the budget turns out this  
4           year, we might have two more Homeless Response  
5           Coordinators. We'll see.

6   Q.     Where does that budget come from?

7   A.     The prior --

8               MS. ENSLIN: I just -- I -- I just want  
9           to object to the extent this is outside the scope  
10          of the topics.

11              Do you -- can you direct me to a certain  
12          topic that would relate to budgeting or --

13              MS. KELLEY: Sure.

14              MS. ENSLIN: -- budget decisions?

15              MS. KELLEY: I would say this fits --  
16          let's see.

17              The -- so No. 6, "Policies and procedures  
18          regarding making and maintaining contact with  
19          unhoused clients."

20              This is a -- a -- a procedure for --  
21          making contact with unhoused people is the HRT and  
22          that the -- what the City has done to stay in  
23          contact with unhoused people includes allocating a  
24          budget to create this team to do that work.

25              MS. ENSLIN: Okay. I'm going to maintain

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1 an objection to it.

2 But, you know, he can answer.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

4 Sorry. Would you mind rephr- --

5 restating the question? I already --

6 MS. KELLEY: Sure.

7 THE WITNESS: -- forgot half of it.

8 I want to make sure I respond to the  
9 correct question.

10 MS. KELLEY: Of course. Thank you.

11 BY MS. KELLEY:

12 Q. I'm wondering where the budget -- or the funding  
13 for the HRT comes from.

14 A. Ah. Thank you. Yes. Thank you for the reminder.

15 So initially, the budget for the Homeless  
16 Response Team came from American Rescue Plan Act  
17 dollars from the federal government. So we  
18 utilized that funding to basically provide a pilot,  
19 if you will, to prove out how this team could  
20 function and operate.

21 And with our supplemental budget year of 2024,  
22 the team moved from the grant funding from the  
23 American Rescue Plan Act dollars over to the  
24 general fund. So that happened in 2024.

25 And then the proposed additions for 2025 and

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1 beyond would also be general fund dollars.

2 And part of the reason for the shift from  
3 grant dollars to general fund is because the  
4 American Rescue Plan Act dollars have a sunset of  
5 the end of this year, end of 2024.

6 So we wanted to make sure that the team was --  
7 would have some reassurance that their work  
8 would -- would be allowed to continue and that we  
9 would be able to continue to provide these services  
10 to residents and then communities beyond 2024.

11 Generally speaking, where do the general fund  
12 dollars come from? That comes from our revenue  
13 base, our tax base. So --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- property taxes and -- and -- and such.

16 Q. And are -- are -- these four individuals, are they  
17 full-time?

18 A. Yes, they are full-time.

19 Q. Do you have the names of those indi- -- the --  
20 those employees?

21 A. I do. The manager is Maikao Vue. Lead Homeless  
22 Response Coordinator is Joseph Olson. Homeless  
23 Response Coordinator, José Acuña-Fernandez. And  
24 then the fourth person, I'm going to stumble over  
25 their name because she actually just started.

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1           First name is Suheb. I can't recall the last name  
2 offhand.

3 Q.       And how are those -- how are they trained?

4 A.       On the job primarily. So there's a level of  
5 training on the homeless response -- or I should  
6 say the response operating guidance as kind of a  
7 baseline. But then while going out and engaging  
8 with others, also partnering with our peers in the  
9 City of Saint Paul, we will help train on the other  
10 side.

11           So if the City of Saint Paul has some new  
12 staff, we'll invite them in over on our side as  
13 well so they could learn what -- habits in St. Paul  
14 and then learn how we operate in Minneapolis and  
15 vice versa.

16           We also engage with Hennepin County and  
17 planners over -- within Housing Stability who  
18 oversee outreach in Homeless Response from the  
19 county perspective since Hennepin County is the  
20 continuum of care for the area.

21 Q.       Do they receive any specific training in supporting  
22 people with PTSD?

23 A.       I would probably have to go back and look to see  
24 what specifics -- specific courses and any types of  
25 training. But generally, they do receive training

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1       on how to engage, how to de-escalate, how to  
2       identify risks or potential of individuals that are  
3       experiencing some level of crisis.

4       Q.      And are those trainings -- what -- what do those  
5       trainings look like? Are they in person? Are  
6       they . . .

7       A.      The trainings can take many shapes. It could be on  
8       the job in the field, it could be classroom, it  
9       could be through experiential learning with a -- a  
10      mock setup. We -- we've done that in the past. It  
11      could be virtual trainings.

12             So there's a whole array of different things  
13       depending on various learning styles and what's the  
14       best mechanism or best medium to deliver that  
15       information so that people can retain that  
16       information.

17       Q.      What's a mock setup?

18       A.      So -- yeah, I didn't characterize it very well.

19             So we might have actors that come in to mimic  
20       certain types of behaviors. And it's an  
21       opportunity to learn through experiential  
22       opportunity in a safe environment, kind of in a  
23       vacuum where it's an individual that's portraying  
24       or presenting with certain problems, and then  
25       that -- our staff would then work through

1 de-escalating that situation or identifying some  
2 different ways in which to engage with that  
3 individual.

4 And then the actor, they would take off the  
5 actor hat and then others -- other peers within the  
6 area would help critique that response, identify  
7 different ways to improve or provide some level of  
8 coaching.

9 Q. Do other City agencies or agents besides the  
10 Homeless Response Team participate in those mock  
11 setups with -- with you all?

12 A. Yes. We have conducted similar ex- -- experiences  
13 like that with inspectors in a variety of different  
14 areas with our housing inspectors, fire inspectors,  
15 business licensing. They've all done that. Health  
16 inspectors as well. So a variety of different  
17 touchpoints where there's that potential to engage  
18 with the general public so that we can identify  
19 people that might -- might be experiencing some  
20 level of a crisis or some level of a trauma  
21 response so that we are aware of how to cease that  
22 harm, if it's our own staff that are in -- in that  
23 environment where perhaps just the interaction is  
24 triggering for an individual. So it's just kind of  
25 building that awareness and then also finding ways

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1 to de-escalate and get -- get the appropriate  
2 responders engaged.

3 Q. Law enforcement ever involved in those mock setups?

4 A. I do not have personal knowledge of them  
5 participating, though I can speculate that most  
6 likely they would have gained similar training.

7 Q. And how much of the Homeless Response Team's day to  
8 day is -- is fieldwork?

9 A. The Homeless Response Team is in the field five  
10 days per week, so pretty much full-time. They are  
11 in the field engaging with individuals experiencing  
12 unsheltered homeless.

13 Q. Do they have specific instructions?

14 A. Can you clarify what you mean by "instructions"?

15 Q. Sure. What are they tasked with doing?

16 A. Okay. So the Homeless Response Team is tasked with  
17 responding to 311 calls, which are cases reported  
18 by community members of various nuisance activities  
19 or behaviors that are occurring in the field with  
20 respect to unsheltered homeless. Those are --  
21 those are the ones in which the Homeless Response  
22 Team is tasked with responding to.

23 Response can be an email response, phone call  
24 as well as pre- -- predominantly in-the-field  
25 action to engage with the individuals that are

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1 experiencing unsheltered homelessness at  
2 encampments.

3 So identifying and verifying that the location  
4 of the encampment is, in fact, matching with what  
5 the complainant indicated, doing an initial triage  
6 with the individuals at the encampment, identifying  
7 how many people, how many structures, what's the  
8 overall setup, so that collectively we, as a  
9 response system, know how to come alongside those  
10 individuals and provide some supportive services as  
11 we collectively work to help them transition from  
12 unsheltered to stable housing.

13 Q. And just to get into the -- the concrete technical  
14 application of that, how -- how do they make -- how  
15 do they obtain that data, the number of individuals  
16 and -- and whatnot?

17 A. So the Homeless Response Team, generally they go  
18 out as a two-person team to each of the different  
19 encampment sites.

20 So once there's a report that there's the  
21 presence of an encampment, the two-person team will  
22 go out to that specific site, and it's by  
23 observation.

24 While they're engaging with individuals,  
25 they're also making sure that they're aware of the

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1       surroundings, counting structures, counting tents,  
2       just surveilling the area and then cataloging that  
3       information, at first in writing and then  
4       incorporating that information into a shared  
5       document.

6       Q.      Is there any other data collection that happens  
7       outside of their handwritten notes and the shared  
8       document?

9       A.      Yes. On a weekly basis, the Homeless Response Team  
10      meets with their peers that operate within the  
11      boundaries of the City of Minneapolis. So that  
12      would be the Minnesota Department of  
13      Transportation, Minneapolis Park and Recreation  
14      Board, Metro Transit, Homeless Action People,  
15      Public Works, Minneapolis Police Department,  
16      Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialists. I'm sure  
17      I'm forgetting an agency or two.

18            But collectively, there are multiple eyes that  
19      are watching encampments, especially as some of  
20      these different circles start to converge into  
21      concentric circles, and there's some overlaps.

22            So we take information. We compare notes. We  
23      identify property ownership. There's a -- there's  
24      kind of a knowledge sharing that happens with that  
25      specific group.

1 Q. And when the Homeless Response Team individuals are  
2 not responding to 311 calls or at these joint team  
3 meetings, what else are they doing?

4 A. Well, really, that consumes 100 percent of their  
5 time responding to these 311 calls. But it's --  
6 the 311 calls relate specifically to encampments.  
7 So they're -- every single day they're in  
8 encampments.

9 Q. Okay. And I think I'm going to -- I'm going to, I  
10 think, zoom back out and move away from -- we -- we  
11 sidebarred on the HR- -- the Homeless Response Team  
12 for a bit.

13 But how -- how do the agencies within the City  
14 communicate on what the plan is for conducting  
15 evictions? How do they -- how do they plan to  
16 conduct encampment sweeps?

17 A. By "agencies," we're referring to the individual  
18 departments and business units within the City of  
19 Minneapolis; correct?

20 Q. Correct. Yes.

21 A. Okay. Okay. I just wanted to make sure.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. So collectively, we have a unified team that meets  
24 every single week. I facilitate the meeting in  
25 partnership with Community Planning and Economic

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1 Development, Public Works, Minneapolis Police  
2 Department, City Attorney's Office, a  
3 representative from the Mayor's office, Minneapolis  
4 Health Department, Emergency Management Division --  
5 or Department -- Emergency Management Department.

6 And we discuss kind of a high-level strategy  
7 of what we're going to look at and how we're going  
8 to move forward with encampment closures or what  
9 some of the next steps are to get us to a place  
10 where we can close the specific encampment or set  
11 of encampments, if you will.

12 And I already indicated the four main factors  
13 we look at: It's public health, public safety,  
14 community livability, and then other environmental  
15 factors that might elevate the priority level of a  
16 specific encampment closure over a different one.

17 And generally speaking, all encampments are  
18 going to close. It's just a matter of when they're  
19 going to close with respect to the number of  
20 resources we have and overall impact that the  
21 encampment is having within the broader system  
22 within the neighborhood or community.

23 Q. Does anybody in that group visit these encampments  
24 in person themselves?

25 A. Yes. We do have the Homeless Response Team that

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1 visits the encampment in person. We do have  
2 representatives from Public Works as well as  
3 Minneapolis Police Department that visit for a  
4 variety of different activities, all relating to  
5 support for the individuals at the encampments so  
6 that the impact on community livability is not  
7 compounded.

8 Depending on property ownership -- because  
9 encampments can form on City-owned property, on  
10 privately owned property. It can -- they can form  
11 on property owned by other government agencies.

12 So depending on if it's a City-owned property,  
13 we might have representatives from -- that  
14 represent the ownership, if you will. And  
15 Community Planning and Economic Development is  
16 primarily the landowner for City ownership.

17 So representatives from Community Planning and  
18 Economic Development will also go to the  
19 encampments and evaluate the situation or figure  
20 out what other services need to be provided to  
21 curate the parcel itself, not so much for the  
22 activity but for the parcel.

23 Q. Who from the Mayor's office is there?

24 A. From the Mayor's office that engages in this --

25 Q. Leads the meeting.

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1 A. -- work group or this team?

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. So previously it was Peter Ebnet, who was the  
4 policy director. Now it's Michael Obama, who is  
5 one of the -- the policy advisors for the Mayor.

6 Q. And when -- sorry. Do you call this a working  
7 group? Or what -- what do you call this?

8 A. Honestly, I don't really think about the name of  
9 it. I just focus on the work. But it's the -- the  
10 City's Unsheltered Homelessness Governing Group.

11 Q. Okay. If I call it the working group, you'll  
12 understand what I mean for --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- short?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. When individuals who are part of this  
17 working group make visits to unsheltered houses'  
18 encampments, is there other locations where they  
19 document what they're seeing aside from what you  
20 already discussed with the -- the Homeless Response  
21 Team's shared document?

22 A. I'm not aware that there are other locations where  
23 information is documented as far as what they  
24 observe. We try to capture it all into a single  
25 source of truth.

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1 Q. What do you mean "a single source of truth"?

2 A. Rather than have disparate pieces of information

3 sequestered in a variety of different departments

4 or people's hands, we try and pull all that

5 information together so that the number of people,

6 number of structures, specific locations, the

7 train, all that is housed in one single -- one

8 single shared document.

9 Q. And that's the Homeless Response Team's document?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Who decides when to initiate an encampment

12 sweep?

13 A. So we take a collaborative effort within this

14 Unsheltered Response Governing Group and

15 collectively make a decision on when to move

16 forward with closure and clearing of an encampment.

17 So it's more by consensus than it is one single

18 individual.

19 Q. Is there a -- a criteria that are looked at to make

20 that consensus decision?

21 A. Yes. As stated previously, we evaluate public

22 health, public safety, community livability, and

23 other environmental factors. So we look at all

24 those different elements and make a determination

25 on which encampment to prioritize for closure over

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1           others.

2 Q.       Does anyone in the working group have veto power  
3           or, I guess, a way to -- to block the consensus?

4 A.       I'm struggling with that question a little bit  
5           because we all have voice into how to move forward.  
6           And ultimately, we find a way to get to the "yes."  
7           There might be some other competing priorities, but  
8           generally speaking, with all the information on the  
9           table, we arrive at consensus and all are able to  
10          move forward recognizing that, yes, Encampment A is  
11          priority over Encampments B, C, D or 2 through 34.

12 Q.       Is there anyone besides this working group who is  
13          party to discussions about whether and when to  
14          evict encampments?

15 A.       Well, generally speaking, this is the -- the group  
16          that is charged with making the determination and  
17          the recommendations on when to close, which  
18          specific locations to close, and some of the  
19          different operating parameters towards closure.  
20          There is generally no interference with that  
21          specific structure and no others that are involved  
22          in making that determination or that could  
23          potentially deviate from the path that -- that we  
24          take.

25 Q.       And once consensus is reached among the working

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1 group, where do you -- where do you take that  
2 consensus next?

3 A. So when we arrive at consensus, there is also  
4 typically a date associated with arriving at that  
5 consensus. So it's not only will we move forward  
6 with closure, it's when will we move forward with a  
7 specific closure, and what does it look like to  
8 close that encampment?

9 So we look at a variety of different  
10 parameters. When can we make it happen? What are  
11 the different supports that we'll be able to  
12 provide and that our partners will be able to come  
13 in and help us provide for that specific date?

14 So it's a "Yes, and." It's a "Yes, we're  
15 going to move forward with closure, and we need to  
16 provide all these other details."

17 If we don't have the resources, if our  
18 partners aren't available, if we don't have -- or  
19 our partners don't have shelter capacity, then we  
20 have to revisit the decision on the closure and  
21 look at a different date and try and get all these  
22 different elements to line up.

23 Q. So the working group does consult with -- with  
24 partners -- service provider partners?

25 A. In a way, yes, we do con- -- look at service

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1 provider partners. And I say "in a way," because  
2 Hennepin County is the responsible authority as the  
3 continuum of care. They are our conduit to the  
4 different service organizations that provide  
5 shelter and housing.

6 We do not have necessarily the direct  
7 relationship to be able to influence that. We work  
8 through Hennepin County that has the direct  
9 relationship and that has all of the contracts and  
10 the agreements and the funding with -- the funding  
11 relationship with each of these different partners.

12 Q. Would you reach out to, then, Hennepin County to  
13 say, "Okay. How many shelter beds are available in  
14 ad--" -- "in advance of this eviction?" Or how  
15 would that go?

16 A. So Hennepin County does a really good job of  
17 communicating shelter availability in advance.  
18 They have a public-facing dashboard where you can  
19 see the availability at the start of the -- the day  
20 and availability at the end of the day. So we use  
21 that as kind of the initial benchmark. And then  
22 just by nature of Homeless Response Team, Crime  
23 Prevention Specialists, police department, Public  
24 Works, all these different entities that might  
25 provide services at encampment.

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1           We have multiple touchpoints where we can  
2 assess, at different parts of the day, how many  
3 people are actually at the encampment and then  
4 match that up with shelter availability. And if  
5 there's not enough, then, yes, connecting with  
6 Hennepin County to say, "Okay. We are planning on  
7 closing an encampment. Here is our estimate of  
8 individuals at the encampment."

9           Hennepin County also has direct service  
10 providers or direct outreach through their Streets  
11 to Housing program, and they can also provide their  
12 input on what they estimate the number of  
13 individuals are when their outreach workers go  
14 on-site to do individual assessments within -- with  
15 specific people. So they can scan their periphery  
16 and provide that level of that detail to help us  
17 balance what we believe to be right versus what  
18 they believe versus other entities.

19           And then from there, work together to see how  
20 we can add some additional shelter capacity, or are  
21 there other mechanisms that the county can employ  
22 to make sure that there's enough space for  
23 everyone. So that takes some coordination and some  
24 planning.

25 Q.       Is there a -- a -- a go-to person at Hennepin or an

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1 agency that you're in communication with to have  
2 those conversations?

3 A. Yes. We engage directly with the director for  
4 Housing Stability and his team. So it's multiple  
5 different people. But my -- my relationship is  
6 with the -- the director who oversees the continuum  
7 of care.

8 Q. Who is that?

9 A. That person is David Hewitt.

10 Q. And does this working group take meeting minutes?

11 A. We do not. If there are specific actions, I  
12 believe we take note of those actions and then  
13 drive to the action items to make sure that we have  
14 resolution and close them out.

15 Q. And once you come up with a -- with a plan, as  
16 you've just described, do you send that to the  
17 Mayor for ultimate approval?

18 A. Once we have the plan, the details of which  
19 specific location, number of individuals we  
20 estimate at the -- at the site, closure date and  
21 shelter capacity and some of the different  
22 supports, all gets documented, and it is shared  
23 with the Mayor, shared with our City Operations  
24 Officer more as -- how do I want to characterize  
25 it? -- for information purposes, not for approval

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1 to move forward with the closure.

2 Q. Do you have standing authority to move forward at  
3 your own discretion as a working group?

4 A. We do have the authority to move forward as the  
5 working group because we are comprised of multiple  
6 different departments that are tasked with ensuring  
7 safe, habitable quality housing and community  
8 livability and viability.

9 So as part of our -- our individual authority,  
10 we have that. But then as we come together, we are  
11 able to move forward in unison.

12 Q. And does -- does the Mayor give input at other  
13 parts of the process? Does he ever attend meetings  
14 or otherwise weigh in?

15 A. Well, the Mayor certainly does have meetings with  
16 respect to policy direction and different elements  
17 in which he or the office would like to see happen  
18 happen.

19 To give an example, we are seeing an increase  
20 in fentanyl use and abuse within the city and the  
21 overall impact that that's having on individuals  
22 who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness at  
23 encampments.

24 So the Mayor is weighing in on more of a  
25 health-focused response with respect to opioid

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1           addiction and fentanyl use and how do we provide a  
2           bookend. It's the prevention piece. It's the  
3           awareness and education upfront so that we are  
4           educating people as much as possible so that they  
5           do not seek that pathway. It -- it's the recovery  
6           and the treatment more on the back end of making  
7           sure that individuals that are looking to escape  
8           that or looking to find a pathway out of fentanyl  
9           use and -- and abuse that there are various  
10          supports and ways for them to be able to transition  
11          out of that when they're ready.

12       Q.     When you say, like, policy -- you said the -- the  
13          Mayor has input on policy directions. Do you mean,  
14          like, City code, or what policies?

15       A.     More of -- no, not City codes. That would come  
16          from City Council. More of, I guess,  
17          organizational direction since the Mayor leads the  
18          administration.

19                   So finding pathways. If -- if we're not  
20          already thinking of them, the Mayor wants to weigh  
21          in on ways to try and leverage those specific  
22          pathways or our working plans to be able to address  
23          some of these different deficiencies.

24       Q.     Has the Mayor given any specific feedback about the  
25          way that encampment evictions are carried out?

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1 A. Most recently the Mayor indicated a desire to close  
2 encampments faster and to not allow them to form to  
3 begin with.

4 Q. And is there a -- is there a standard procedure for  
5 when the decision is made to close an encampment,  
6 how service providers are to be notified?

7 A. Yes. So once a decision is made to close an  
8 encampment, I direct the manager of the Homeless  
9 Response Team to engage with her counterparts at  
10 Hennepin County, that are more closely affiliated  
11 with the service and outreach partners, to make  
12 Hennepin County aware of the impending closure,  
13 which location, and the -- the date.

14 And then Hennepin County also notifies the  
15 various service organizations that operate or have  
16 outreach workers that are operating at that  
17 encampment so that they're aware.

18 And then it's also a matter of notifying  
19 shelters and others that operate in the space --  
20 the unsheltered homelessness space -- so that they  
21 can adjust their operation, if need be, to shift  
22 personnel, add staffing, or do those operational  
23 types of things so that if there is a surge of  
24 individuals that are looking to move into shelter  
25 or who need transportation to get to shelter, that

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1           they have the capacity to be able to do that.

2 Q.       How far in advance is notice given to  
3           Hennepin County and to service providers?

4 A.       That -- that's taken on a case-by-case basis,  
5           really.

6           In certain instances, we've been able to give  
7           upwards of a month advan- -- advance notice,  
8           depending on the complexity of -- of the situation.

9           In other cases, we've been limited in  
10          providing notice as the encampment closure happens.  
11          It kind of depends on what are -- what are the  
12          situations? What's -- what's developing on --  
13          excuse me. What's developing in the field at that  
14          time, and what precipitated the closure?

15          So if there's a public safety risk or  
16          public -- you know, severe risk of harm to staff,  
17          harm to others in community and it prompts imminent  
18          closure, then we communicate in real-time as things  
19          are happening because closure is -- is quite  
20          imminent. In other situations, we're able to plan  
21          more in advance and build in more of that -- that  
22          change management with our partners.

23 Q.       Who makes the decision whether -- whether to  
24          proceed imminently or to have buffer time and --  
25          and advance notice?

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1 A. So, really, it's determined by the conditions that  
2 are happening and that are emergent in the field.  
3 That's really what -- what prompts it.

4 So if we're seeing violence happening, if  
5 people are being murdered at encampments, if  
6 there's gun violence, if the -- these things are  
7 active, that prompts that immediate response to  
8 close the encampment.

9 Q. But who -- who specifically -- what -- which human  
10 beings make that decision?

11 A. So the responses come from the Minneapolis Police  
12 Department. Who specifically within the  
13 Minneapolis Police Department? I can venture a  
14 guess. I -- I wouldn't know conclusively.

15 Q. When you're in a -- when you're in a working group  
16 meeting and you're deciding we need to evict  
17 tomorrow as opposed to far in advance, whose --  
18 whose decision is it to -- to proceed with an  
19 immediate eviction?

20 A. So in my interpretation, immediate is now. So if  
21 there is something that's happening right now and  
22 the decision is made to close right now, that is  
23 a -- an emergency response decision to respond to  
24 what's happening right now versus something  
25 happening tomorrow, then that would still be this

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1 working group.

2 We would take the advice from the police  
3 department or if it's from the Health Department or  
4 whichever individual department that is making the  
5 request, but ultimately, it's handled by a  
6 consensus.

7 Q. Okay. But when it is an emergency decision as  
8 opposed to a consensus decision, who makes it?

9 A. Again, that would depend on what's the nature of  
10 the emergency? Is it a health -- health risk where  
11 people are going to die because of a public health  
12 incident that's happening? Likely that would come  
13 from the Minneapolis Health Department.

14 If people are dying because of gun violence or  
15 other illegal activities and behaviors that are  
16 happening within the encampment or immediate  
17 vicinity, that would be more of a law  
18 enforcement -- Minneapolis Police Department that  
19 would make the recommendation.

20 Q. So the -- is it a recommendation or is it authority  
21 that either the Health Department or the police  
22 department, depending on the context, have to order  
23 the eviction to happen?

24 A. So in my view, it's a recommendation because it  
25 still requires additional partners to come

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1       alongside. We would need traffic control most  
2       likely, depending on the location of the  
3       encampment. Traffic control would be required to  
4       help block traffic, help navigate traffic flow, a  
5       variety of different factors so that the community  
6       is minimally impacted by not only the encampment  
7       but the activity that's happening to close the  
8       encampment.

9                   Public Works would have to be involved. So  
10          they need to have resources available and ready to  
11          go to clear the encampment after individuals have  
12          been removed from the encampment.

13          Q.        Okay.

14          A.        So it's -- it -- it's not as direct or not as  
15                  binary.

16          Q.        Okay. And how -- the decision to -- to give notice  
17                  to residents, who -- who decides when and how that  
18                  is done?

19          A.        And by "residents," you mean the individuals that  
20                  are residing on the specific encampment --

21          Q.        Correct.

22          A.        -- not the -- okay. Okay. I just wanted to  
23                  bifurcate that.

24          Q.        Good -- good clarification. Thank you.

25          A.        Okay. So within the -- this working group, we make

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1           the decision on -- as part of the closure process,  
2           it -- we back it up to see, okay, if we're closing  
3           on -- let's see. What's today? If we're closing  
4           on December 13th and we want to provide -- well,  
5           let's -- let's evaluate. Are we providing the  
6           minimum three business days' advance notice? Are  
7           there different factors that are converging that  
8           would predicate that we are not able to provide the  
9           advance notice such as we've seen hostility, we've  
10          seen a lot of outside agitators engage when City  
11          staff are present or when our contractors are  
12          present? Do we have reasonable . . . Sorry. Do  
13          we have reason to believe that violence might erupt  
14          or there might be significant confrontation that  
15          would impede on our ability to move forward with  
16          closure and preserve safety for staff, for the  
17          residents on the encampment, and surrounding  
18          community?

19           So if those different elements come back as,  
20          yes, there's reasonable suspicion or there's a high  
21          risk, then we might delay providing the written  
22          notice. We might provide verbal notice instead of  
23          written, or we might do other things to try and  
24          de-escalate and mitigate the risk when it converges  
25          with staff, contractor, community safety.

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1           But we -- we go through a -- a series of -- of  
2 decisions along the way to see, Can we move forward  
3 with closure? When do we provide advance notice?  
4 Who's going to be the one providing the notice?  
5 Some of that depends on whether it's on City-owned  
6 property, another government agency's property, or  
7 private property as far as who's going to provide  
8 the -- the notice and what support we, as a city,  
9 are going to provide for those individuals that  
10 are -- that are providing the notice, and then  
11 confirmation of notice being given. So a variety  
12 of different factors converge.

13 Q.       When you say "we" in reference to the -- the people  
14 making those decisions, based on the factors you've  
15 just articulated, do you mean the working group as  
16 we've been calling it?

17 A.       Yes. That's right.

18 Q.       So is there ever a situation where the Minneapolis  
19 Police Department could demand an immediate closure  
20 of a camp?

21 A.       Well, certainly if there is a significant risk. We  
22 experienced that earlier this year where there was  
23 an individual that allegedly was going from camp to  
24 camp killing people inside the encampments. So  
25 that prompted immediate response.

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1 Q. Are there other agencies that could also make  
2 immediate demands for closure, other City agencies?

3 A. Again, we would have to evaluate that on a  
4 case-by-case basis. That was a very extreme case  
5 where we needed to make that immediate response.

6 Conceptually, the Minneapolis Health  
7 Department could also move to close immediately.

8 But, again, we would need all of our other partners  
9 within the working group to come alongside and  
10 support that decision, not just supporting it from  
11 a conceptual perspective or we support the idea but  
12 physically providing resources to help support the  
13 closure.

14 Q. If there are no available shelter beds on a --  
15 prior to a -- a desired encampment closure, is the  
16 policy to still go forward with it?

17 A. So our focus as a working group is on the people.  
18 We want to make sure that we're not unnecessarily  
19 displacing the individuals while also balancing  
20 community livability and community needs.

21 So when we move forward with plans for  
22 closure, that's part of why it's important to know  
23 how many people are at the encampment so that we  
24 can contrast that with the number of shelter beds  
25 that are available and supportive housing that's

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1 available.

2 Because if we see that there are not enough  
3 spaces for people to go to, then that's pretty much  
4 a nonstarter. And we've -- we've seen that in the  
5 past with previous encampment closures where the  
6 number of individuals at the encampment outweighs  
7 the number of shelter spaces that were available.  
8 So we've delayed closure so that Hennepin County  
9 and other partners could bring additional spaces  
10 online so that we would have enough spaces if  
11 everyone chose to go into shelter. Ordinarily,  
12 people don't. But we -- we -- we make a best  
13 effort to make sure that they have the opportunity  
14 if they choose to avail themselves of it.

15 Q. And when those -- when those additional spaces are  
16 brought online, does the City or this working group  
17 have any control over what those additional spaces  
18 look like?

19 A. No, we do not. That's managed by Hennepin County  
20 since they are the continuum of care and manage the  
21 Coordinated Entry System. They have set parameters  
22 for what spacing would look like and what it would  
23 need to be, and -- and some -- some of it depends.

24 So as new shelters come online, they might  
25 have a specific purpose or a function. It could be

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1 family, it could be for children, it could be a  
2 variety of different methodologies in which those  
3 spaces come online. So some of that dictates what  
4 the spaces are going to look like and what the  
5 needs are going to be and what that distribution  
6 is.

7 Q. Do you have any -- any input or oversight or -- I  
8 guess, yeah, input or oversight as to what those  
9 parameters are or what those spaces look like?

10 A. No. As a city, we do not have input into that  
11 space because Hennepin County, they are the  
12 continuum of care. So, really, it's their  
13 discretion, and they're the ones who are providing  
14 the funding and receiving the funding to manage the  
15 continuum of care and the overall homelessness  
16 response system.

17 Q. Is there any mechanism for designating or reserving  
18 spots for encampment residents prior to a closure?

19 A. So individuals at encampments can reserve spots.  
20 But as a -- as an organization, the City of  
21 Minneapolis does not have the ability to reserve  
22 spaces for individuals at encampments.

23 I -- I can say that they're -- I believe there  
24 was one instance in which there was a deviation  
25 from that, and that's because there was a brand-new

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1 shelter that was coming online. So we worked with  
2 that shelter provider to expedite their opening and  
3 simultaneously delaying the closure so that we  
4 could conceptually shift individuals from the  
5 encampment that we were planning on closing over  
6 into the shelter. So right off the bat since they  
7 were just starting their operation, Hennepin County  
8 and the shelter operator agreed to reserve a block  
9 of spaces for individuals that were coming out of a  
10 specific encampment.

11 Q. What -- do you remember what date that was?

12 A. That -- to the best of my recollection, that was in  
13 the winter of 2022. I might get my years wrong  
14 here.

15 Q. That's okay. I was mostly wondering if it was  
16 prior to Nenookaasi.

17 A. I believe it was prior to Nenookaasi.

18 Q. And what -- what agency was that? What shelter was  
19 that?

A. I believe it was Rescue Now.

21 Q. Just going back a bit to -- to the notice and the  
22 working group deciding who provides notice.

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1 A. I do not recall authorizing a Pastor Colin to  
2 provide notice. Though, I am familiar with the  
3 specific instance in which he was present while  
4 notice was provided.

5 Q. Could you just tell me what that situation was or  
6 ex- -- explain your knowledge of that situation?

7 A. Certainly. I'll back up a little bit, if you allow  
8 me --

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. -- a little bit of liberty here.

11 So City of Minneapolis, we own a lot of  
12 property. And by default, we are kind of the owner  
13 of last resort. So when properties are lost due to  
14 tax forfeiture or there are no heirs available and  
15 the property is surrendered over to Hennepin  
16 County, Hennepin County makes a best effort to seek  
17 buyers for those different properties.

18 And in instances where there are no interested  
19 buyers, the City of Minneapolis will acquire those  
20 properties in an effort to try and find ways to  
21 redevelop them for low- to moderate-income families  
22 and -- and just redevelop or package them into a  
23 bundle so that they can be redeveloped as a set.

24 So by this practice, the City, through  
25 Community Planning and Economic Development, owns

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1           hundreds of vacant parcels. They can't possibly --  
2           the staff can't possibly manage all of that, so  
3           they contract with a third party to do the property  
4           management. They do the maintenance. They cut the  
5           grass. They do the snow removal. They provide for  
6           the fencing and posting of "No Trespassing" signage  
7           on all of these vacant parcels and then rove around  
8           to make sure that all of the City-owned properties  
9           are fully compliant with the property and housing  
10          maintenance code.

11           And on the specific event in which you're  
12          describing where Pastor Colin was present, we  
13          tasked this property management company with going  
14          and providing notice of trespass and the closure  
15          date for when the encampment was going to be  
16          closed.

17           And on prior attempts to engage at the  
18          property, the individual from the property  
19          management company that was going and providing  
20          some level of service and just follow-up in posting  
21          of notices was threatened by individuals at the  
22          encampment. Whether they were residents of the  
23          encampment or whether they were visiting, it is  
24          unclear.

25           But they -- they felt threatened by

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1 individuals who were present at that time and,  
2 instead, did not post notice. They left and  
3 returned with a friend, who happens to be a pastor,  
4 and just wanted that extra individual, that extra  
5 person there for their own personal safety so that  
6 they could provide the notice and then leave the  
7 area. They don't engage. They don't do any other  
8 work. They just provide the notice and leave. So  
9 when -- well . . .

10 Q. Is it the same managing company or contractor that  
11 you use for all City-owned properties?

12 A. Yes. That's correct. It's the same property  
13 management company for all City-owned -- or  
14 City-owned properties owned by Community Planning  
15 and Economic Development.

16 Q. Who is that contractor?

17 A. I don't have the name offhand. I could probably  
18 find that information.

19 Q. We can -- we can table that question.

20 Are they -- are they tasked with providing  
21 notice and "No Trespassing" signs anytime there's  
22 an eviction in the City of an unhoused encampment  
23 on the City property?

24 A. Yes. That is correct. They pro- -- they ensure  
25 that the fencing is intact, that the "No

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1           Trespassing" signage that's on the fencing and in  
2           the property is intact.

3           And when there is a notice of closure, then  
4           that contractor will go out and either post it on  
5           the fence or something exterior or something in- --  
6           internally.

7           They've also -- depending on the -- the setup  
8           for the encampment and its proximity within the  
9           neighborhood, they've also set up wedge boards in  
10          the past.

11          Q.     Are they given specific instructions or parameters  
12          for these signs?

13          A.     We have a standard template for signage. And  
14          whether it's on private property, other government  
15          agencies', or City-owned properties, we try to use  
16          the exact same template and same language that  
17          specifies the notice of no trespassing, the  
18          ordinance, that the site is set for closure. And  
19          if we're going to provide the date, then the date  
20          and time.

21          Q.     Okay. Do they report to the working group to get  
22          these instructions or . . .

23          A.     So from the working group, there are other staff  
24          that will also engage and do work. So there are  
25          other individuals who are not part of the working

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1 group that will receive the instruction of what's  
2 to happen next, and then they will, in turn,  
3 provide direction to the contractor. So they'll  
4 provide them with the signage, provide them with  
5 the operating parameters of be sure to -- you know,  
6 in the example of closure on December 13th, and we  
7 plan on providing three days' advance notice, then  
8 the instruction will be, "By December 10th, you  
9 must go to this site by this time and post notice,  
10 take pictures that you posted" -- "posted the  
11 notice and provide us that information as  
12 photographic documentation that you did complete  
13 the task."

14 Q. And are they given any kind of instructions on how  
15 to identify themselves as agents of the City or  
16 devices to assist in doing that? By "devices," I  
17 mean letterhead or badges or seals, anything that  
18 could indicate "We are a representative of the  
19 City"?

20 A. That, I'm not positive of. I'm not sure how they  
21 present themselves physically, if there's any sort  
22 of a lanyard or documentation or anything visible  
23 that indicates that they are a contractor of the  
24 City. I'm not infinitely familiar with that level  
25 of detail.

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1 Q. Do you know if the City does have oversight or  
2 definitively doesn't have oversight into the way in  
3 which these contractors are instructed to identify  
4 themselves?

5 A. I'll back up and say since they're a property  
6 management company, the focus is on managing the  
7 property and not on people because the -- the  
8 intent is they're going to cut the grass, they're  
9 going to remove root weeds, they're going to take  
10 care of snow removal, those kinds of things, and  
11 that people should not be resident on vacant  
12 property.

13 So from that perspective, there generally has  
14 not been a need to identify because they're just  
15 managing the property.

16 In this specific instance when there are  
17 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness  
18 on these vacant -- on these properties that should  
19 be vacant, I can see how there would be some  
20 bumping up of what they're tasked with doing versus  
21 what these unsheltered residents might see and not  
22 knowing -- or I -- I don't know if they -- if they  
23 know or don't know or how they represent themselves  
24 or how they identify as they approach to place the  
25 signage.

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1           I -- like I said, I don't -- I don't know that  
2       level of detail of how they represent themselves or  
3       if they have any sort of devices that would  
4       indicate to others visibly that they are agents for  
5       the City of Minneapolis.

6   Q.   Just to make sure I'm understanding you clearly,  
7       this -- this contracting company, do they  
8       specifically just manage properties that, as you  
9       described, the City acquires because nobody else  
10      wanted, or do they manage all vacant City lots?

11   A.   They manage all vacant City parcels owned by  
12      Community Planning and -- and Economic Development.

13   Q.   Has the City been made aware of instances where the  
14      Operational Guidance on evictions has not been  
15      followed?

16   A.   Well, the Operational Guidance for encampment  
17      closure is dictated by the working group. So if we  
18      make a decision in that moment that goes against  
19      the operating parameters, we stand that up against  
20      the parameters and say, "Why would we" -- "why  
21      would we deviate from it? Are there extenuating  
22      circumstances that predicate that we are going to  
23      deviate and that the level of risk is high enough  
24      that it warrants deviation? If not, we're not  
25      deviating." So that's the decision point that

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1 would happen.

2 So it's the working group that would have the  
3 most intimate knowledge of whether we deviate or  
4 whether we don't.

5 And then we're also either present ourselves  
6 or have staff that are present that can follow  
7 through and see from a transparency perspective,  
8 did we actually uphold what we were intending to  
9 do?

10 But there should be enough milestones along  
11 the way from decision to closure that indicate  
12 whether we are remaining on -- on -- on the path to  
13 closure as we outlined within that working group.

14 Q. I was wondering more so about, regardless of the  
15 integrity of your process, the -- the pushback or  
16 the flak that you might get from other people.

17 MS. ENSLIN: Objection. Vague.

18 MS. KELLEY: I can restate the question,  
19 if it makes it easier for you.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.

21 MS. KELLEY: All right.

22 BY MS. KELLEY:

23 Q. Do people complain to you and/or the working group  
24 about the way that evictions are conducted when you  
25 make decisions to deviate from the poli-- -- the

1                   Operational Guidance?

2       A.     I will have to bifurcate the -- the people. So  
3                   from a community perspective, they wish that we  
4                   were -- operated faster and closed them much  
5                   faster. From -- within the City, those that are  
6                   aware or even those that are not as intimately  
7                   aware of how we operate, they want to make sure  
8                   that we have a humane response. And usually, I  
9                   walk them through, "Here's the process. Here's the  
10                  teams. Here's what we have."

11                  And I'm able to demonstrate that, yeah, we are  
12                  taking a humanistic -- we're taking a  
13                  human-centered approach, that we are doing all  
14                  these things. And that's part of why it takes as  
15                  long as it does.

16                  So as much as it would be great to not have  
17                  encampments at all, the reality is these -- there  
18                  are a variety of different factors that lead to it.  
19                  So we have to work with individuals, meet them  
20                  where they are and help them move into that next  
21                  phase of -- of life for themselves.

22                  But generally from community perspective, they  
23                  want encampments closed faster. As soon as they're  
24                  set up, they want them closed. So that would be  
25                  the resistance or pushback that we receive when we

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1 provide notice and then eventually move to closure.

2 We generally don't have pushback from  
3 individuals when we go in the opposite direction of  
4 moving to closure quickly and not providing a -- a  
5 lengthy advance notice period.

6 Q. And are you -- are you getting this feedback in the  
7 form of phone calls or emails? How are you having  
8 these conversations with community members?

9 A. Primarily we receive emails. Also, direct feedback  
10 from community meetings at var- -- var- -- various  
11 police precincts or different city council members  
12 will stand up community meetings and listening  
13 sessions in response to safety concerns within an  
14 area. So I receive that information there.

15 Council Member Jenkins led a -- a Think Tank  
16 in September. It was a series of three different  
17 meetings inviting community members to engage in  
18 making some recommendations on how to respond to  
19 unsheltered homelessness and received in- -- input  
20 during those sessions as well.

21 Q. And what do you -- what do you do with the input?  
22 Where does it go from -- from there?

23 A. So the approach we take is there's no  
24 one-size-fits-all approach to unsheltered  
25 homelessness. People enter through a variety of

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1 different means. They need to exercise their  
2 agency, and we want to provide as many  
3 opportunities as possible to help people recognize  
4 their agency, to take control of it, and to move  
5 from unstable housing to stable housing.

6 So we take that input. We evaluate it. I say  
7 "we" as in if I receive the information, I bring it  
8 to this unsheltered working group.

9 If it comes through other individuals that  
10 attend community sessions, it all comes into this  
11 unsheltered working group so that we can  
12 collectively identify how we might pivot our  
13 approach. Or if there's enough merit to  
14 incorporate more funding into the budget process,  
15 as an example, to stand up different elements with  
16 respect to the un- -- the City's response to  
17 unsheltered homelessness.

18 Q. And when -- when you said that the Mayor expressed  
19 an interest to have evictions -- or encampments be  
20 closed faster and/or not form at all, did he offer  
21 any basis for expressing that desire?

22 A. If I recall, that was, I believe, in response to  
23 seeing a number of different individuals who are  
24 experiencing -- experiencing unsheltered homelessness  
25 who are addicted to fentanyl.

1           Going out in the community and engaging with  
2 individuals and seeing just the pervasiveness of  
3 addiction and engaging with community members who  
4 were very concerned for themselves, for their  
5 property, for their businesses, for their neighbors  
6 and for the -- their unsheltered neighbors as well,  
7 that this just cannot continue. We need to do  
8 something different.

9           So part of that response is close encampments  
10 more quickly and do not allow encampments to form  
11 because they are unsafe for the individuals that  
12 are residing in the encampments, and they present  
13 high level of safety risk for the neighbors that  
14 surround them.

15 Q. Is there a way that unhoused individuals could get  
16 in touch affirmatively with the Homeless Response  
17 Team if they wanted to?

18 A. Well, the Homeless Response Team, aside from being  
19 present at encampments and making regular visits to  
20 encampments, you know, they can engage directly  
21 that way. The team also has a -- a shared email  
22 box. You can contact through Minneapolis 311.  
23 Just dialing 311 on your phone from within the City  
24 of Minneapolis, or outside of the City of  
25 Minneapolis, (612) 673-3000 to get to 311 to try

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1 and get to the Homeless Response Team. Since  
2 they're in the field full time, they have no desk.  
3 They have no desk phones. But that would be --

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. -- probably the most expedient way to get in touch  
6 with them, and then they can reach back out to  
7 any -- any individual that contacts them.

8 Q. Do they have -- do they give out this contact  
9 information when they do visits?

10 A. I'm not positive of what details are included on  
11 the information sheet that they provide, if it's  
12 just the email address or if it's email address  
13 plus the number for the Minneapolis 311 along with  
14 the list of shelter and service providers that  
15 operate within the unsheltered homelessness  
16 framework.

17 Q. So they -- they give out some -- some  
18 documentation, but you're not sure what's on it?  
19 Is that what you're saying?

20 A. I'm saying that while they provide documentation of  
21 available resources, I'm not -- I'm not certain of  
22 the specificity of the Homeless Response Team's  
23 information on that list of resources.

24 Because the focus for the Homeless Response  
25 Team, while they're doing outreach and engagement,

1       it's on doing triage and making sure that they  
2       connect individuals experiencing unsheltered  
3       homelessness to the service providers and to  
4       Hennepin County and make sure that the individuals  
5       have access to all these resources that can provide  
6       them with the direct services versus the Homeless  
7       Response Team, which is one more mechanism to  
8       connect them to all these different resources.

9       Q.      Do the Homeless Response Team individuals have a  
10       way to follow up with somebody who they visited  
11       once if they wanted to find that person and do a --  
12       a second visit with them?

13       A.      Well, I'll -- I'll say this again. The focus is on  
14       triage. We do not connect -- collect names or  
15       personal information for any of the individuals  
16       that we connect with -- or that the Homeless  
17       Response Team connects with. That is -- that  
18       responsibility -- responsibility lies with  
19       Hennepin County and with the service providers.  
20       They have access to the Homeless Management  
21       Information System and can add people into the  
22       system and evaluate them for placement within the  
23       Coordinated Entry System.

24                  The Homeless Response Team is primarily for  
25       triage and -- and basic connection. And the best

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1 way to do that is in person. So if members of the  
2 Homeless Response Team go to the encampment and  
3 engage with an individual who is looking to connect  
4 with their caseworker, that Homeless Response  
5 Coordinator can look into the Homeless Management  
6 Information System, identify who the case manager  
7 is for the individual they're meeting with at that  
8 moment, and then find their contact information and  
9 make the connection that way.

10 Otherwise, we generally do not -- the Homeless  
11 Response Team -- when I say "we" in this case, the  
12 Homeless Response Team does not collect that  
13 personal information and doesn't make appointments  
14 with individuals, does not connect in that regard  
15 to do that active case management or follow-up.

16 Q. Is it -- is it the position of this working group  
17 that encampments are more unsafe than individuals  
18 who are unsheltered and homeless but not in an  
19 encampment?

20 MS. ENSLIN: I'm going to object to the  
21 extent this is outside the scope of the deposition.  
22 Is this -- is there a topic that addresses this?

23 MS. KELLEY: Sure. I think it falls kind  
24 of generally under the "Planning, discussion, and  
25 decision-making of houselessness-related policies,"

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1           No. 1. The decision-making that informs the City  
2           of Minneapolis's procedures regarding whether or  
3           not to evict -- evict would inherently be informed  
4           by whether or not the City thinks that evictions  
5           put individuals in more or less danger as opposed  
6           to unsheltered houselessness without encampment.

7           MS. ENSLIN: Okay. I'm just going to log  
8           a standing objection to this line of questioning.

9           The witness can answer.

10           I'm also going to object to the extent  
11           this calls for an incomplete hypothetical.

12           You can answer.

13           THE WITNESS: Okay.

14           A. Well, what I can say about that is that encampments  
15           are not a safe environment for individuals who are  
16           experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

17           We can point to 911 call data. We can point  
18           to community livability data through 311 or 911  
19           that indicate that crime and other violent offenses  
20           increase with the presence and how -- the length of  
21           time that encampment is present within an area or a  
22           neighborhood.

23           It isn't necessarily to say that the  
24           individuals resident within the encampment are the  
25           reason for that. It is to say that an encampment

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1 forms an attractive nuisance where individuals will  
2 look to exploit those who are experiencing  
3 unsheltered homelessness.

4 They'll look to take advantage of the -- the  
5 screen, if you will, of an encampment to harm  
6 others within the community, to -- to steal, to  
7 break in, to cause disruption and other -- other  
8 types of harm, to engage in sex trafficking and  
9 other human trafficking. It's a mechanism that  
10 attracts an element of bad actors that are looking  
11 to exploit individuals.

12 BY MS. KELLEY:

13 Q. Sure. My question is more for the individual who  
14 is either residing at an encampment or not residing  
15 at an encampment but in both situations  
16 experiencing homelessness.

17 Does the encampment provide, according --  
18 do -- do you have a position on the relative safety  
19 that an encampment would provide?

20 Let me know if you need me to rephrase that  
21 question.

22 MS. ENSLIN: I'm -- I'm just going to  
23 object to the extent that calls for speculation,  
24 and it's an incomplete hypothetical.

25 MS. KELLEY: Sure.

1 BY MS. KELLEY:

2 Q. I'm -- I'm asking if -- if the working group has a  
3 position on whether encampments are safer or less  
4 safe for unhoused individuals.

5 A. The position is that encampments are unsafe,  
6 period, and they are less safe than for individuals  
7 that are unsheltered residing independently on  
8 their own.

9 Q. Okay.

10 MS. KELLEY: And I guess I would just --  
11 I'll pause and check in and see how everybody is  
12 doing. We've been going at this for a while. And,  
13 yeah, does anyone want to take a -- a breather?

14 MS. MCQUITTY: That's a good idea.

15 MS. KELLEY: (Attorney nods head.)

16 MS. MCQUITTY: Maybe ten minutes?

17 THE WITNESS: Could we take a break?

18 MS. ENSLIN: Yeah. How about -- should  
19 we take a ten-minute break?

20 MS. MCQUITTY: (Attorney nods head.)

21 MS. KELLEY: That sounds -- yeah. Does  
22 that work for everyone else?

23 THE WITNESS: (Witness nods head.)

24 MS. ENSLIN: (Attorney nods head.) Come  
25 back at 10:55. Sound good?

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1 MS. KELLEY: (Attorney nods head.)

2 MS. MCQUITTY: (Attorney nods head.)

3 (Recess from 10:45 a.m. to 10:57 a.m.)

4 BY MS. KELLEY:

5 Q. Has the working group looked at any data comparing  
6 the, I guess, negative outcomes for people  
7 experiencing houselessness while dispersed as to --  
8 compared to the negative outcomes they experience  
9 when living at encampments?

10 A. I'm trying to wrap my mind around the -- the  
11 question. Apologies.

12 Q. Take your time.

13 A. So conceptually, have we looked at outcomes for  
14 individuals experiencing homelessness that are in  
15 encampments versus not in encampments? Is that the  
16 question?

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. No, we have not looked at those specific parameters  
19 because the -- the -- the focus for this working  
20 group is on encampments. Encampments are illegal.  
21 So how do we work with individuals inside the  
22 encampments to help them progress to a stage where  
23 they're sheltered and they're stably housed and not  
24 in encampments. So that's --

25 Q. Okay.

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1 A. -- the primary focus.

2 And then more of the analysis of the outcomes  
3 for those that are housed but might be housing  
4 unstable, those that are unhoused, those that are  
5 in encampments, that analysis work would happen at  
6 Hennepin County as the continuum of care and quite  
7 possibly at the State of Minnesota for the  
8 Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness.

9 Q. Okay. Do they give you any of their data or  
10 reports?

11 A. No. We do not have that data or reporting because  
12 our focus is solely on encampments within  
13 Minneapolis, not all the different variants of  
14 homelessness that exists within the system.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you. I'm going to switch gears a  
16 little bit and ask some questions about the  
17 storage.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. So could you just give us an overview of what --  
20 what's the storage that the City offers to unhoused  
21 people for their belongings?

22 A. Certainly. So the City of Minneapolis has a  
23 contract with the Downtown Improvement District to  
24 provide storage. There's two different contracts  
25 that are present. One, as I mentioned before, the

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1 Homeless Response Team was kind of an amalgamation  
2 of multiple different individuals from different  
3 departments that all joined and are now in  
4 Regulatory Services.

5 Our contracts were kind of the same way, where  
6 there was a contract with the Health Department for  
7 storage in the downtown space specifically, and I  
8 think some of the focus there was for individuals  
9 that were walking around with their belongings,  
10 that they would have a safe space to leave their  
11 belongings while they took in a shower, did a  
12 variety of other things, generally not necessarily  
13 focused on unsheltered homelessness.

14 And then there's a second contract with the  
15 City Coordinator's Office that was for storage of  
16 personal items for individuals experiencing  
17 unsheltered homelessness in encampments.

18 So both of those contracts came together. Reg  
19 Services -- Regulatory Services, we hold these  
20 contracts now.

21 And what it looks like is -- for the personal  
22 belongings storage, it's a large tote. I can't  
23 recall the dimensions of the tote. But our  
24 Homeless Response Team members, they have these  
25 totes available. As they go and do engagement with

1 individuals experiencing homelessness at  
2 encampments, they offer storage at each one of the  
3 different site visits. "Do you want to go to  
4 shelter?" "Do you have a case manager?" "Do you  
5 want to connect with your case manager?" "Do you  
6 want to go to" -- you know, "Do you want storage?"  
7 Just offering an -- an array of different services.  
8 So that's how --

9 Q. That -- that's --

10 A. -- that functions. And then --

11 Q. Sorry. I'm going to back you up a little bit just  
12 to make sure I'm understanding the two contracts.

13 A. Certainly.

14 Q. Is the Health Department contract designed to be  
15 more temporary just while people are doing  
16 something like showering?

17 A. Yes. It's designed to be more temporary whereas  
18 the -- well, I guess, both contracts are designed  
19 to be temporary.

20 The health one is more immediate temporary  
21 where it's very short term while I'm engaging in  
22 something else, while I'm getting services, leave  
23 my belongings with the Downtown Improvement  
24 District, and then I retrieve them later.

25 The encampment-specific storage, the personal

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1 belongings storage, is more of a intermediate-term  
2 temporary where individuals can place their  
3 belongings in a bin. They have to provide  
4 identification so that we know who they are and  
5 that they are releasing their belongings for  
6 storage purposes. It makes it easier when they go  
7 to claim their property later if they're able to  
8 say, "Yes, this is who I am." And they can provide  
9 some level of proof that -- proof of ownership for  
10 their belongings. The requirement there is that  
11 they check in once every 14 days and that storage  
12 was initially intended to be for three months  
13 maximum. Though, I can say that the Downtown  
14 Improvement District still has all the personal  
15 items and personal effects that they agreed to take  
16 on. They have not destroyed anybody's items in the  
17 three-plus years that we've had the contract in  
18 place.

19 Q. Has the -- the contract -- or so the -- you just  
20 said the contract for the encampment storage has  
21 been in place for three years. How long --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- has the contract been in place for the  
24 Health Department storage?

25 A. The Health Department storage came about in 2020 to

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1           2021. I'm a little fuzzy on exactly when. But  
2           both of them are roughly three to four years --

3 Q.       Okay.

4 A.       -- is how long we've had them in place.

5 Q.       And is that -- are those in the same -- is it  
6           stored in the same building?

7 A.       Yes. They are stored in the Downtown Improvement  
8           District's offices downtown off of Hennepin Avenue.

9 Q.       Is that the -- is it by the Greyhound terminal?  
10          It's okay if you don't know.

11 A.       I don't recall the specific location. I haven't  
12          been to that facility in -- in quite some time.

13 Q.       Okay. Thanks for indulging these clarifying  
14          interruptions. I appreciate you, Mr. Velazquez.

15 A.       Certainly.

16 Q.       And the -- the check-in every 14 days for the  
17          encampment storage, how does one do that?

18 A.       So when an individual basically surrenders their  
19          belongings to be stored, they're provided their  
20          contact information so they can call and check in,  
21          or they can visit and physically in person check in  
22          on their belongings or retrieve some items out  
23          of -- out of storage if they so choose. So it's a  
24          couple of different mechanisms that are in place  
25          that will allow them to check in.

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1 Q. And when they -- when they call, is it like a  
2 number menu, is it a robot, is it a person?

3 A. It is a person on the other end of the phone that  
4 they can connect with, and that way that individual  
5 can look up the record of their belongings and make  
6 sure that they take notation of, "Okay. This  
7 individual checked in on their belongings and  
8 here's the date," so that they can update the  
9 record.

10 Q. When the Homeless Response Team offers storage, are  
11 they offering the -- the tote storage or the bin  
12 storage or both?

13 A. It's a -- it's a tote, and that's -- that's what  
14 they offer.

15 Q. So do they -- does the Homeless Response Team offer  
16 storage that is encampment specific, the -- the  
17 larger-volume storage?

18 A. So if I understand the question, it sounds as  
19 though the question is on: Are we offering a  
20 larger storage option for the entirety of the  
21 encampment or either --

22 Q. The -- so I'm -- I'm envisioning what you've just  
23 described -- and please correct me if I'm wrong --  
24 as there are two storage contracts with separate --  
25 kind of separate offerings.

1                   The first being the Health Department tote,  
2                   and the second being the encampment-specific bins.

3     A.     (Witness nods head.)

4     Q.     Am I -- please correct any misunderstandings that I  
5                   have just made.

6     A.     Certainly. Okay. That makes sense.

7                   So the health contract one is primarily for  
8                   downtown. That one is not offered at encampments.

9                   The Homeless Response Team, they travel around  
10                  with -- you know, using the same terminology, they  
11                  travel around with the bins so that --

12    Q.     Okay.

13    A.     -- anybody that wishes -- anybody in an encampment  
14                  that wishes to store their personal belongings in  
15                  that moment that they make the decision, they can  
16                  have access to the bin and store their personal  
17                  items, and then the Homeless Response Team can  
18                  transport that to the Downtown Improvement District  
19                  for storage.

20    Q.     Okay.

21    A.     We try to capitalize on when individuals in the  
22                  moment make the decision so that they have that  
23                  immediate gratification knowing that, okay, they've  
24                  made a choice, and we're responding to the choice  
25                  that they've made.

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1 Q. Is there a volume limit on how many bins or on --  
2 if objects don't fit in a bin?

3 A. So the volume limit is that their items need to fit  
4 inside the bin, and they get one bin. So they have  
5 to make some decisions on what items they want to  
6 put into storage for safekeeping versus items that  
7 if they're going to use more routinely on a --  
8 on -- on an ongoing basis that they wish to either  
9 travel with or keep close by.

10 Q. And does the City offer storage for items that  
11 don't fit? Like, that wouldn't fit in a bin such  
12 as furniture or anything bigger than a bin, I  
13 guess?

14 A. We have on a case-by-case basis. It's not  
15 something we normally do. So there have been  
16 instances where we have offered larger storage.

17 I can think of a case where there's an  
18 individual that repairs bicycles. So it was his --  
19 part of his gig. It was how -- part of how we  
20 participate in the -- in the services economy,  
21 repairing bicycles.

22 He had a number of bicycles and was  
23 unsheltered. And when we moved to close that  
24 specific location where that individual was  
25 operating, the decision was made to help transport

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1           his bicycles into storage, and we procured a  
2           storage unit for the individual's bicycles.

3   Q.     Okay.

4   A.     What happened after the fact was he acquired more  
5           bicycles and then stayed outside with his new  
6           collection of bicycles and never checked in on the  
7           storage unit of -- of items.

8   Q.     So then -- then what happened to the bicycles in  
9           storage?

10   A.    Well, I think they're -- the -- the contract was  
11           coming to some -- some sort of an end where we  
12           weren't going to be able to store them any longer  
13           or -- yeah, store them any longer or pay for the  
14           storage for any longer and approached the  
15           individual to find out what he wanted to do with  
16           his belongings, and he didn't want them. So they  
17           were transported, I believe, with Solid Waste and  
18           Recycling so they could recycle them or rehab them.  
19           I'm not exactly sure how they -- they were  
20           ultimately dispositioned, since they were his  
21           belongings that -- that we were storing on his  
22           behalf.

23   Q.     So if somebody -- I guess, kind of in line with  
24           that.

25           If somebody doesn't check in within the

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1       14 days, is there a process that is followed for --  
2                  for checking in with them?

3       A.     I'm trying to recall the specific information that  
4                  is required to be provided. I know something  
5                  personally identifiable with a picture  
6                  identification. I don't know if we collect -- "we"  
7                  being the Downtown Improvement District, if they  
8                  have contact information because the Homeless  
9                  Response Team collects that for them or not.

10                 What I can say is the Downtown Improvement  
11                  District has not disposed of anybody's belongings.  
12                  They're still in storage. Seventeen individuals  
13                  have utilized storage and only one person has ever  
14                  checked in. Yeah.

15       Q.     Only one person has ever done the 14-day check-in  
16                  thing?

17       A.     Yes, only one.

18       Q.     How do people --

19       A.     All the belongings are still there.

20       Q.     Okay. How do people -- like, not checking in for  
21                  the purpose of keeping things there but check-in  
22                  for the purpose of accessing their belongings, how  
23                  would that work?

24       A.     So with that, they have the contact information for  
25                  the Downtown Improvement District. So they can --

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1           while it presents a barrier, and we recognize that  
2           it's a barrier, it is downtown. And with the  
3           majority of the encampments being more on the  
4           perimeter of Minneapolis versus in the central  
5           business district, we have partnered with  
6           Metro Transit and their Homeless Action Team for  
7           bus tokens so that people could get downtown and  
8           get back.

9           We've also provided -- we have access to --  
10          we, the Homeless Response Team, has access to an  
11          Uber account so that they can pay to transport  
12          people so that they can access their belongings.

13          And I can say that, you know, we have received  
14          feedback about the centralized location for storage  
15          and how it's not in community.

16          So one of the pieces that I advocated for  
17          adding into this next budget cycle for 2025 and  
18          2026 is more funding so that the Homeless Response  
19          Team can have access to storage that's in community  
20          with -- or -- or surrounding encampments so that  
21          storing of their personal belongings and accessing  
22          their personal belongings doesn't create one more  
23          barrier to holding on to their personal effects.

24          Q.       How -- how would a unhoused person, like, access a  
25          bus token or an Uber ride to take advantage of that

1 offering?

2 A. The Homeless Response Team delivers bus tokens when  
3 they -- they have a limited number, but they'll  
4 deliver them for anybody that asks.

5 So it's one of those pieces of "Do you  
6 need" -- "do you need transportation somewhere?"  
7 "Do you" -- you know. Some individuals have access  
8 to safe housing, and I'll -- I'll use air quotes  
9 around "safe housing" because that housing might be  
10 sofa surfing on the couch for a relative.

11 So some individuals might see that the  
12 conditions are not so favorable or what's coming up  
13 is not so favorable, and they will choose to go  
14 into safe housing and will connect with the  
15 Homeless Response Team or the Homeless Action Team,  
16 and they go out and do their visits as well to  
17 access and receive bus tokens or ask for a ride.

18 Q. Is -- the Homeless Action Team and the Homeless  
19 Response Team, those are different -- are they  
20 different?

21 A. They are different. The Homeless Action Team is  
22 through Metro -- I'm sorry. I'm converging two  
23 different words -- through Metro Transit, so the  
24 Transit Authority.

25 Q. Okay. What -- could you just give me an overview

1           of what the Homeless Action Team is?

2   A.    So the Homeless Action Team, to the best of my  
3           knowledge, they do outreach and engagement efforts.  
4           Their primary focus is for encampments that are on  
5           or immediately adjacent to Metro Transit areas. So  
6           that would be the Light Rail; Light Rail stations;  
7           the bridges surrounding the Light Rail, if the  
8           Light Rail train travels over or underneath a  
9           bridge; it would be along the bus lines, if there  
10          are individuals experiencing unsheltered  
11          homelessness who are taking up shelter in a bus  
12          shelter or at a bus stop or a bus bench.

13           So they engage with those individuals and try  
14          to help them find pathways to stable and supportive  
15          housing similar to how the Homeless Response Team  
16          engages with individuals on private property and  
17          City-owned property.

18   Q.    Okay. Does the Homeless Action Team send a  
19          representative or participate in the working group  
20          meetings?

21   A.    The Homeless Action Team participates in a separate  
22          work group meeting where the -- the City of  
23          Minneapolis Homeless Response Team convenes meeting  
24          with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board,  
25          Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of

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1                   Saint Paul, Hennepin County, those that are engaged  
2                   in the outreach work. So that's the avenue for  
3                   information and connection --

4       Q.     Okay.

5       A.     -- to the conduit that feeds over to the working  
6                   group -- the City's working group.

7                   The Homeless Response Team or the --  
8                   represented by the manager of the Homeless Response  
9                   Team will bring that information forward to the  
10                  internal working group.

11      Q.     I see. And how often does that broader  
12                  Hennepin County/St. Paul Homeless Action  
13                  Team/Homeless Response Team meeting happen?

14      A.     That happens every week on Monday.

15      Q.     Okay. These -- the decisions about what can be  
16                  stored, where it would be stored, how often you  
17                  have to check in, who made those decisions?

18                   MS. ENSLIN: I'm going to just object to  
19                  the extent that's a compound question.

20                   You can answer.

21                   MS. KELLEY: Sure.

22                   THE WITNESS: Sure.

23      A.     So with respect to the check-in, that was part of  
24                  the contract as it was set up. I -- I'm not  
25                  familiar with how the individuals that negotiated

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1           the contract arrived on a 14-day check-in and how  
2           much storage capacity they would have or when to  
3           discard of personal items.

4           What I can say is most likely it was we were  
5           anticipating a great response -- meaning high  
6           volume of response -- of individuals that would  
7           look to take advantage of storage.

8           So there needed to be some sort of mechanism  
9           in place so that storage can flow smoothly so that  
10          individuals that are looking to benefit from it are  
11          not blocked by others that did take advantage of it  
12          and didn't check in or chose to abandon their  
13          property.

14          Because we've had such low response with very  
15          few people over the last four year -- three years,  
16          '21 to '24, no items have been discarded.

17          We've blown way past the 14-day requirement  
18          for check-in, and the Downtown Improvement District  
19          is okay with that because they do not see that --  
20          the volume isn't there. So it -- these are just  
21          bins that are sitting there in their space, and  
22          they're focusing on just storing these belongings.

23 BY MS. KELLEY:

24 Q.       Is there any requirements or -- yeah, requirements  
25          that individuals who use these bins submit to

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1           searches of the bins or what they put in them?

2   A.    To the best of my knowledge, no, there's no

3           requirement like that. We do not catalog what goes

4           into the bin. The individual that moves their

5           items into the storage bin and places them there,

6           they might catalog them. But the focus from the

7           City perspective is solely on ensuring that

8           individuals have access to storage or at least the

9           storage option if they choose to avail themselves

10          of it.

11           We transport it over to the Downtown

12           Improvement District. We continue to fund it to

13          make sure that their items are not discarded.

14           But otherwise, there's no other indication, no

15           other record that the City maintains of who the

16           individuals are and whether they stored belongings

17           or what the belongings are. So from, like, a law

18           enforcement perspective, that would be completely

19          outside of the bounds.

20   Q.    Okay. So the record of who stores what is held

21           by -- like, where -- where is that record held?

22   A.    That would be the individual that chose to store

23           their belongings. And if there is a separate

24           record, it might be the Downtown Improvement

25          District just so that they know who stored items,

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1 what's in the -- what's in the -- in the bin.

2 Q. And this is probably an ignorant question on my  
3 part. What is the Downtown Improvement? Is that  
4 part of the City, the Downtown Improvement District  
5 or . . .

6 A. Oh, the Downtown Improvement District is kind of  
7 a -- a subworking group of the Downtown Council,  
8 which is an economic development nonprofit  
9 organization that is focused on ensuring the City  
10 of Minneapolis and specifically downtown is  
11 represented in a positive light, that they attract  
12 positive influences, conventions, conferences, all  
13 those different kinds of revenue-generating  
14 economic drivers to the City.

15 So the Downtown Improvement District was  
16 developed to help amplify that message with kind of  
17 a -- a Disneyland, Disney World kind of a feel with  
18 ambassadors that greet people. They provide  
19 wayfinding. They provide positive elements to  
20 downtown that just by their presence help detract  
21 from negative elements that might look to take  
22 advantage of visitors or tourists and -- and the  
23 like.

24 Q. Is there a -- a bidding process prior to selecting  
25 the Downtown Improvement District as a partner for

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1           these contracts?

2   A.    Typically, just speaking in general terms to our  
3           procurement process, we generally do go through  
4           requests for proposals where other entities could  
5           bid on this. I'm not familiar with how we la- --  
6           landed on this specific vendor --

7   Q.    Um-hum.

8   A.    -- at this specific time.

9           We also could have gone with a sole source  
10          because Downtown Council, Downtown Improvement  
11          District, plus our emergency management personnel,  
12          police department, fire and whatnot, they could  
13          have arrived at a similar conclusion of "We need to  
14          have storage. We need to have storage options  
15          available."

16           And just speaking hypothetically, I could see  
17          the Downtown Improvement District saying, you know,  
18          "We have space. We could store belongings. We  
19          could try this out, see how it works, and do some  
20          level of sole-source contracting that way."

21   Q.    When storage is offered by the Homeless Response  
22          Team to residents, on a kind of a literal level,  
23          how do they do that?

24   A.    So when Homeless Response Coordinators go to  
25          encampments, they attempt to go door to door or

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1           tent to tent to engage individuals. They make  
2           announcements: "Hey, Homeless Response Team. Just  
3           doing a wellness check on you," and then solicit  
4           engagement. "We have snacks." "We have socks."  
5           "We have" -- "we have a variety of different  
6           things." "Hello, we have water." And just try to  
7           draw people out of their tents so that they can  
8           engage. Not everybody chooses to engage. But  
9           that's kind of the -- the process that they follow  
10          to try and build engagement.

11           And then as they engage to either receive  
12          snacks, receive water, receive whatever it is  
13          that -- whatever perishable item that they have  
14          right there with them, that's when coordinators  
15          will ask, "Hey, are you connected? Do you have a  
16          case manager? Who's your case manager? Do you  
17          want us to put you in touch with a case manager?  
18          This encampment will be closing. Do you have any  
19          items you'd like to store? We have bins available.  
20          We have them in the vehicle. Would you like us to  
21          arrange that for you to store your belongings for  
22          you?"

23          Q. In addition to going tent to tent, does the  
24          Homeless Response Team typically spend time in  
25          common areas of the encampment?

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1 A. They'll stay for as long as there's engagement. So  
2 if there's a -- a -- a fair and net amount of  
3 individuals that wish to engage, then they'll  
4 remain present. They'll stay engaging. It all  
5 depends on what are the -- what are the parameters  
6 at that -- that location? What's -- you know, they  
7 have to maintain situational awareness because they  
8 go out in pairs. Are things becoming hostile? Are  
9 people becoming agitated? Are there other things  
10 that are rising to the surface that might predicate  
11 that our coordinators need to back out? So it --  
12 it depends.

13 But, yeah, they have stayed in common areas  
14 and engaged with people. They've engaged with  
15 other caseworkers and outreach workers as they go  
16 to those specific locations where they can do some  
17 level of a debrief on- -- on-site of "Hey, you  
18 know, we" -- "we visited multiple times and this  
19 person never comes out. Have you talked to them?"  
20 "Oh, yeah, this is who they are, and here's" --  
21 "here's what's going on. They work nights, so  
22 they're sleeping during the day," or a variety of  
23 different things like that.

24 Q. Yeah. And how -- how do they document the  
25 interactions that they have with people?

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1 A. So the Homeless Response Team has a shared  
2 document, almost like a spreadsheet, where they  
3 document the date of the visit, how many people  
4 they've connected with, how many people they  
5 feel -- based off of, you know, peripheral and  
6 anecdotal information of, you know, collecting  
7 information from the two individuals, they'll share  
8 that data -- how many people they feel are there,  
9 number of structures. Are there other -- other  
10 extenuating circumstances that are present there?  
11 Did they see illicit drug -- drug use, an array of  
12 needles? How many people did they actually engage  
13 with that accepted shelter versus storage versus  
14 snacks or -- or personal effects? So they just  
15 keep track of that information.

16 Q. I'm going to -- I'm going to talk about Nenookaasi,  
17 and I'm going to kind of give you an idea of what  
18 I'm considering Nenookaasi to be. Is that -- so we  
19 can be on the same page. How does that sound?

20 A. Sounds good. Thank you.

21 Q. Okay. So Nenookaasi being described as the  
22 encampment that was the -- the big one on  
23 13th Avenue near 2313 from late August until  
24 January 4th.

25 And the January 4th eviction was followed by a

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1       January 30th eviction from a location -- so from  
2       January 4th to January 30th, it was on 14th Avenue  
3       near 2601.

4       A.     Um-hum.

5       Q.     And then that location existed for a short period  
6       of time from -- so after the 14th Avenue was  
7       evicted, it was 16th Avenue South from January 30th  
8       to February 1st.

9               And then the location moved to 1105 East 28th  
10      Street from February 1st until the fire.

11              And then from February 29th to July 25th, at  
12      or near 2839 14th Avenue South.

13              I'm going to pause for a second just to see if  
14      you have questions about that or if that makes  
15      sense to you what I'm defining as Nenookaasi.

16       A.     Yes.

17       Q.     How many Nenookaasi residents were offered storage  
18      by the Homeless Response Team?

19              MS. ENSLIN: I'm just going to object to  
20      this to the extent it's, yeah, improper inquiry for  
21      a 30(b) (6) deposition.

22              You can answer if you know.

23       A.     I'll say that every time the Homeless Response Team  
24      personnel visit Nenookaasi or any other encampment,  
25      they offer storage.

1                   So as many people as are willing to engage,  
2                   that's how many people are offered storage with  
3                   multiple visits. So the same person might be  
4                   offered storage 15 times for each one of the 15  
5                   visits. Though, they may not connect with  
6                   100 percent of the people that are at the  
7                   encampment.

8 BY MS. KELLEY:

9 Q.       And how many people who are Nenookaasi residents  
10           ended up using storage offered by the Homeless  
11           Response Team?

12 A.       None.

13 Q.       Was there any conversation in the City about the --  
14           the lack of use of this offering and ways to  
15           address that?

16 A.       Yes. So taking a look at the data that the  
17           Homeless Response Team collects from their  
18           engagements over time, there are a couple of  
19           different factors. One is the size of the storage,  
20           and the second, the location in proximity to  
21           encampments.

22                   So that's where -- while I'm not able to  
23                   address anything in the immediacy, we were able to  
24                   incorporate elements and proposals into the next  
25                   budget cycle so that we could identify sources for

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1 storage that are in community.

2 We also looked at existing service providers  
3 such as the Catholic Charity -- Catholic Charities  
4 Mary Frey Opportunity Center where they have  
5 storage lockers there. They have a limited number  
6 of lockers, very low cost, and they're able to  
7 provide storage for 30 days, and then that  
8 individual that has a storage locker would have to  
9 surrender the locker. They go to the back of the  
10 list so that other people can avail themselves of  
11 the limited quantity of storage lockers they have  
12 before they get access to a locker again.

13 So we looked at a variety of different sources  
14 to try and solve the puzzle of personal belongings  
15 storage with the funding and resources we have.

16 Q. Were any changes made based on those explorations  
17 to the existing way that the City offers storage?  
18 A. Again, that's where we added into the next year's  
19 budget cycle the options for storage within  
20 community.

21 But we have to wait until the budget is  
22 approved, and then we can issue a request for  
23 proposal so that we can identify those sources and  
24 move forward with a -- a different, more robust  
25 storage solution than what we're able to offer

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1 right now with this initial Downtown Improvement  
2 District contract.

3 Q. Is Catholic Charities one of the City's outreach  
4 partners?

5 A. Catholic Charities is one of Hennepin County's  
6 outreach service organizations -- or I should say  
7 they -- they offer a -- a warming shelter service.  
8 And especially from November to April during the  
9 inclement weather months, they provide warming. So  
10 whether it's daytime or nighttime operations,  
11 there's multiple different organizations that  
12 provide that.

13 Catholic Charities is a shelter provider with  
14 a number of different shelters both in Minneapolis  
15 and St. Paul, so they are part of both continuums  
16 of care.

17 Q. Okay. And the -- the City has used the term  
18 "outreach partners" in a couple of its documents.  
19 Would you mind explaining what that means?

20 A. Sure. So even though we do not have the direct  
21 relationship with any of these Social Service  
22 organizations -- meaning we're not funding them  
23 directly; the funding goes through Hennepin  
24 County -- we still consider them partners.

25 Our -- the City's Homeless Response Team is in

1           the field engaging with individuals experiencing  
2           unsheltered homelessness, and they will also  
3           interact with other outreach organizations such as  
4           Avivo and Agate and Streets to -- Streets to  
5           Housing and Homeless to Housing and referring to  
6           different organizations out in the field.

7           So from that perspective, we see them as  
8           partners. We see each other as partners in the  
9           work because collectively we're all engaging in the  
10          space to solve the riddle of unsheltered  
11          homelessness.

12          Q.       The -- the -- the City's kind of description about  
13          those partners has included Agate, Avivo, Hennepin  
14          County Streets to Housing, and Healthcare for the  
15          Homeless.

16           Are there more than I'm -- that I'm missing?

17          A.       American Indian Community Development Corporation  
18          also has outreach. They also have shelter,  
19          emergency shelter housing, supportive housing.  
20          They have a variety of different elements along the  
21          overall continuum.

22           And I -- I'll say that Hennepin County, they  
23          contract with these different partners and evaluate  
24          them on performance and may make different  
25          structural decisions or may engage in different

1                   partnerships.

2                   Because I think of Rescue Now. I think of  
3                   Shelter Connect. Those are also some different  
4                   agencies that Hennepin County connects with as part  
5                   of the overall continuum of care, supportive  
6                   housing system.

7 Q.          Does the City of Minneapolis have any kind of  
8                   control over who Hennepin County selects to be  
9                   these outreach partners?

10 A.         If I may, let me back up in time just a little bit.  
11               There was a point in time where the City of  
12               Minneapolis contracted with a couple of different  
13               outreach partners. Agate and Avivo, I believe,  
14               were two of the partners that we did have contracts  
15               with. At the same time, Hennepin County had  
16               contracts with them.

17 Q.         Okay.

18 A.         So while we had a specific defined  
19               scope-of-services contract with these partners, the  
20               county had a slightly different scope of services  
21               contract with these partners.

22               So at different parts of time, they would  
23               converge together. Sometimes they interfered  
24               with -- with one another where the -- the  
25               partner -- if they followed one, the guidance and

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1           the scope of work in one, they were in conflict  
2           with another.

3           So what we ended up doing as a city was we  
4           transferred our contracts to Hennepin County and  
5           then also provided some level of funding over to  
6           Hennepin County so that as a sole source,  
7           Hennepin County would manage the contracts, manage  
8           the relationships with the partners.

9           And since we were contributing, we also have  
10          some level of input into who Hennepin County  
11          selects or -- or the deliverables that would come  
12          out of it. So that's part of how the relationship  
13          works between the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin  
14          County.

15          So to answer your question, we were able to  
16          provide some level of recommendations, not so much  
17          on who the partners are. We leave that to the  
18          county to select who the partners are. It's -- our  
19          focus is more on what exactly do we get for the  
20          contributions, what deliverables, how -- what kind  
21          of data are -- are these partners able to provide  
22          to give us an indication that we're moving the  
23          needle on unsheltered homelessness and if we need  
24          to do more or if we need to do something different,  
25          or how do we continue to adapt our -- our approach

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1 and our investments to make sure that we are being  
2 responsible partners in the space too?

3 Q. Do you remember when those contracts should --  
4 contracts shifted from you to Hennepin County?

5 A. I do not recall. The contracts themselves were  
6 held by Community Planning and Economic  
7 Development, and they predated my move into  
8 Regulatory Services. If I had to estimate, I -- I  
9 speculate it's somewhere between 2021 and 2022.

10 Q. Okay. What are the -- what are the criteria that  
11 you provide to Hennepin with regards to what -- who  
12 you'd like them to pick for their contracts?

13 A. Generally speaking, outreach-focused, make  
14 effective utilization of the Homelessness  
15 Management Information System, accurate reporting,  
16 flexible partnership. Meaning, as conditions  
17 change in the field, as the needs change, that  
18 they're able to make adjustments and pivot and  
19 provide a level of partnership that while they  
20 receive funding from the various agencies, whether  
21 it's directly from Hennepin County or indirectly  
22 from the City of Minneapolis, that their outreach  
23 workers are focused on engagement and helping  
24 individuals move from unstable housing into stable  
25 housing and that their focus is not on deriding the

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1           approaches by any of these organizations that are  
2           funding them.

3   Q.     Does the City have any mechanisms to ensure that  
4           the -- these outreach partners are accessible to  
5           people with disabilities?

6   A.     Could you repeat the question one more time?

7   Q.     Sure. Does the City have any mechanisms in place  
8           or processes to verify that these partners are  
9           offering services that are accessible to people  
10          with disabilities?

11   A.     No, we do not have -- we, as a city, do not have  
12          mechanisms to verify. We leave the responsibility  
13          of managing the relationships and the operating  
14          parameters to Hennepin County as the lead for the  
15          continuum of care.

16   Q.     Is there any verification prior to Nen- --  
17          Nenookaasi evictions that occurred with regards to  
18          these outreach partners' capacity to provide  
19          services in advance of an eviction?

20   A.     I'm sorry. I'm not sure I understand the question.

21   Q.     Totally. I'll -- thank you for being diligent  
22          about asking when you don't understand.

23           The -- in advance of a Nenookaasi eviction,  
24          what, if anything, does the City do to verify the  
25          availability of resources provided by these

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1 outreach partners?

2 A. So prior to closure, as I mentioned before, the  
3 Homeless Response Team gathers information of how  
4 many people we estimate to be there or how many  
5 people they -- the -- the team estimates to be  
6 present at an encampment. What are some of the  
7 different demographic characteristics that they've  
8 identified? Do they -- do they see individuals  
9 that are on crutches, in wheelchairs having various  
10 medical needs or medical -- well, I said "medical"  
11 already -- medical needs or other -- other types of  
12 needs that would inform how we respond to not only  
13 individuals in the encampment but also leading up  
14 to the day of closure.

15 Then we take that information -- the Homeless  
16 Response Team specifically will inform partners  
17 during their Monday -- their Monday meeting, the  
18 stand-up meetings, with the other agencies and  
19 provide the level of information so that all these  
20 other agencies are also aware, and they can adjust  
21 or tailor their response with respect to outreach.  
22 That also informs the process for identifying  
23 shelter spaces.

24 So that information is shared with  
25 Hennepin County that oversees the continuum of care

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1 and the Coordinated Entry System and our, you know,  
2 sheltering system so that they have an idea of  
3 genders, age -- if we're able to collect that --  
4 and mobility. Or are there some other extenuating  
5 circumstances that indicate that certain  
6 individuals within the encampments require a -- a  
7 different level of care?

8 But all the information feeds over to  
9 Hennepin County so that they can make necessary  
10 adjustments, which includes coordinating with  
11 outreach providers on how to adapt and adjust their  
12 outreach on a continual basis.

13 Q. Has anybody from the working group or reporting to  
14 the working group ever tried to access these  
15 outreach partner services from the user end?

16 A. I couldn't even speculate if -- if any individuals  
17 have or haven't or what the feedback has been.

18 I do know that Hennepin County routinely  
19 checks in on their providers to make sure that the  
20 systems are working as designed and making some  
21 adjustments as necessary into the operations to  
22 make sure that the end users have the best possible  
23 experience possible and that they actually utilize  
24 the -- the systems and services and can do so in a  
25 way that isn't harmful for them or doesn't create

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1 more harm or reactivate traumas.

2 Q. So has anybody in the working group ever, like,  
3 called -- for example, called the number, called  
4 the hotline for trying to reserve a shelter bed?

5 A. I can say that I have personally while actively  
6 trying to find a shelter bed for an individual --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- or individuals as I encounter them in my  
9 day-to-day work.

10 Q. Would you mind just walking us through when that  
11 was and what happened?

12 A. Sure. I recall it was leaving from -- it was not  
13 from an encampment. I'll -- I'll preface it  
14 from -- from that perspective. I was not actively  
15 at an encampment.

16 I was leaving my office building, just walking  
17 outside, and there was an individual in the lobby  
18 who was looking -- just talking to people, asking  
19 for the use of their phone, engaging with them.

20 I discovered that they needed access to  
21 shelter, identified gender, approximate age, which  
22 helped us figure out which phone line to call,  
23 which number to call. This was before  
24 Hennepin County made a switch to the number to call  
25 for their shelter providers. Before, it was

1           disparate with multiple -- we had to ask those  
2           different questions to identify which provider to  
3           call. Now, it's a single number, so it's a little  
4           bit more streamlined.

5           But after I gathered this individual's  
6           demographic information, contacted the phone number  
7           and found out what space was available. I did not  
8           have to wait terribly long. It rang just a few  
9           times, found out that there was space. And then  
10          between the two of us, myself and the individual,  
11          mapped out a route to get them over to where a  
12          shelter was.

13       Q. When did the -- when did that consolidated phone  
14           number switch happen?

15       A. I'm not positive on when it happened. I recall  
16           hearing about it towards the end of 2023, but I'm  
17           not exactly positive when Hennepin County made the  
18           switch.

19       Q. Has anybody in the working group tried calling  
20           the -- the Coordinated Entry number?

21       A. Not to my knowledge.

22       Q. And does the City arrange for buses to be at  
23           evictions to take people places?

24       A. Depending on the location, the proximity, other --  
25           other factors contributing to where the encampment

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1       is located, the time of day, a variety of different  
2       factors and number of people present, we have made  
3       arrangements to provide busing. We do have a -- a  
4       contract with the bus company to be able to provide  
5       that service.

6                  The Metro Transit Homeless Action Team, they  
7       have a bus that has been present before as well.  
8                  Also, partnership with American Indian Community  
9       Development Center. They have a bus or a mini --  
10      mini bus where they have gone to encampment  
11      closures and just sat and remained while we worked  
12      through the process of closing the encampment and  
13      then offering transportation to shelter from there.

14                 We've provided transportation to the  
15      Catholic Charities Mary Frey Opportunity Center in  
16      the past as well. So we've done a number of  
17      different things. It all depends on what's the  
18      situation, how many people, and what are -- what  
19      are the -- what are the needs? Because every one  
20      of them is a little bit different.

21      Q.     Are there people who are instructed to, during  
22      evictions, tell evictees of encampments, "Hey,  
23      there's a bus over there, and this is where that  
24      bus is going"?

25      A.     That's -- yeah, thank you for the question.

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1                   So as part of the -- the process -- I'll --  
2                   I'll step you through on the -- the day of. So the  
3                   property --

4 Q.           Okay.

5 A.           -- owner, whether it's on City property, private  
6                   property, or other government agency, whatever  
7                   the -- whatever that looks like, that property  
8                   owner or the representative of the property makes  
9                   an announcement and then also goes tent by tent.

10                  With that announcement, they announce that the  
11                  encampment is illegal. It violates Code of  
12                  Ordinances 244.60 and that individuals that are on  
13                  the property are trespassing, based off of this  
14                  ordinance and others, and that they are being given  
15                  verbal notice of trespass. They need to vacate and  
16                  not return within a year. And if they return  
17                  within a year, then they may be arrested or subject  
18                  to other civil liability. Anyone who is interested  
19                  in finding transportation, they'll provide the  
20                  direction.

21                  So it's -- it's pretty well orchestrated as  
22                  far as what that transportation looks like, whether  
23                  there are individuals from the Homeless Response  
24                  Team that are present that will arrange for an Uber  
25                  ride for individuals to go to safe -- safe housing,

1           whether it's a shelter, whether it's a family's  
2           house, rel- -- relative, a friend's house, whatever  
3           that looks like that's not another encampment, the  
4           Homeless Response Team has tran- -- arranged for  
5           transportation.

6           If it's a bus, that individual, through their  
7           announcement, will direct people over to the bus  
8           and detail exactly what kind of a bus, where it's  
9           headed, whether it's a Metro Transit bus or it's  
10          AICDC, American Indian Community Development  
11          Corporation, or whatever the -- the situation is,  
12          but providing those details so that broadly and  
13          then individually people receive that information.

14       Q.     So that announcement will be made by -- on a  
15           tent-by-tent basis with that level of detail?

16       A.     Yes. So it's -- it's both. It's broadly and then  
17           also tent by tent. I've participated in some of  
18           these tent-by-tent announcements as well, and by  
19           and large, people -- they -- when City staff show  
20           up and we start the tent- -- tent-by-tent process,  
21           people will say, "Yep. I heard the announcement.  
22           Thank you. Appreciate it." And then they might  
23           have some clarifying questions of "Wait. What kind  
24           of transportation, and where is it? I wasn't clear  
25           on which direction. Is it this corner? Is it that

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1 corner?" And then --

2 Q. When --

3 A. -- providing the clarity of where to go.

4 Q. When you say "broadly," are we talking like a -- a  
5 megaphone in the center of camp, or what do you  
6 mean? Is that a general announcement?

7 A. Yeah, it's a general announcement. It's been  
8 handled by a variety of different mechanisms. A  
9 megaphone or the police department has a vehicle  
10 that has speakers mounted on the exterior of it.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. So the announcement might be either prerecorded or  
13 it might be someone there with a microphone that is  
14 speaking the message and then it's amplified  
15 broadly just open air versus on an individual  
16 basis.

17 Q. Is the substance of the announcement functionally  
18 the same between the broad and the individual?

19 A. Yes, substantively it is. There's a -- a script  
20 that's formed before either recording the  
21 announcement or making the general statement, and  
22 that that same individual will go tent to tent  
23 providing the exact same information just to make  
24 sure that there's consistency in the process.

25 Q. Who writes that script?

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1 A. We have kind of a boiler- -- boilerplate template  
2 of what needs to be included in that script. And  
3 then depending on what services are available or  
4 how we have adjusted, then the person who's making  
5 the announcement will make adjustments to that  
6 script so that it's set, it's clear, they know from  
7 an operational standpoint where to direct people.  
8 Because ultimately the focus is, yes, we want the  
9 vacant land to return to being vacant land. We  
10 want it to return to compliance. But we can't  
11 highlight this enough: We want to make sure that  
12 people have access to services and supports that  
13 they need.

14 Q. And at the time that those announcements are made,  
15 is law enforcement present at that point?

16 A. Let me ask a clarifying question.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. This is still with respect to Nenookaasi  
19 encampments, correct, not just encampments broadly?

20 Q. Sure. Let's -- let's say Nenookaasi. Yeah.

21 Is -- is law enforcement present at Nenookaasi  
22 evictions at or before the time when the  
23 announcements are being made?

24 A. Yes. Law enforcement is present, especially for  
25 utilizing their equipment. They're absolutely --

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1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. -- present for the amplification or the microphone.

3 Q. Are law enforcement given instructions with regards  
4 to outreach partners about how to interact with  
5 service providers during evictions?

6 A. I'm going to take a sip, and then give me one  
7 moment.

8 Q. Totally. Take your time.

9 MS. KELLEY: And we could also -- I  
10 notice it's getting close to lunchtime. I don't  
11 need to push anybody. So, yeah, let me know if you  
12 want to take a lunch break.

13 THE WITNESS: Oh, yeah. We're flying by.

14 A. So I'll back up and just provide a little  
15 background on what's provided to law enforcement.

16 In most cases, we have a roll call where those  
17 that are leading teams will be present at the roll  
18 call.

19 And a roll call is facilitated by the  
20 commander that is attached to this unsheltered work  
21 group. The commander from the police department  
22 attached to the sheltered workgroup, they're the  
23 ones that oversee a team that is actively engaged  
24 in encampments. They have the situational  
25 awareness of what's happening, the makeup of the --

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1           the encampment, the location, the main  
2           thoroughfares, other events and activities that are  
3           happening in close proximity to the -- the  
4           encampment.

5           And they put together -- "they" being the  
6           commander and the -- and the commander's team from  
7           the Minneapolis Police Department will put together  
8           kind of an operational framework for the day of the  
9           closure. That includes how many resources the  
10          police department will need. How many resources  
11          are going to be required from traffic control?  
12          What types of equipment and staffing are required  
13          from Public Works to clear or even resecure the  
14          site afterwards? It includes what other City staff  
15          might be needed there, whether we need  
16          representative -- representatives from the  
17          Health Department or if we need Homeless Response  
18          presence or what that looks like for Homeless  
19          Response.

20          And if there are requests for busing or  
21          transportation, it all depends on what's the  
22          profile of the individuals that are at the  
23          encampment, and do they have varying degrees of --  
24          of needs that we need to be very attentive to.

25 BY MS. KELLEY:

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1 Q. How far in advance do these roll calls happen prior  
2 to an eviction?

3 A. The roll call happens the day of.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. The preparation happens leading up to it. It could  
6 be days, it could be weeks of preparation to lead  
7 up to the encampment closure.

8 Roll call is the morning of that outlines not  
9 only which representatives are going to be there,  
10 but also where should they station, whether --

11 Q. Yeah. Is that --

12 A. I'm sorry.

13 Q. Is that where it's decided, for example, how many  
14 trips residents are allowed to make with their  
15 belongings when they're leaving an encampment?

16 A. So at roll call, it's -- that's when it's  
17 communicated. Now, whether --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I think the decision happens earlier on. But when  
20 it's communicated out, that's when it's  
21 communicated to all of us collectively: emergency  
22 management, police department, traffic.

23 All of us hear the same message of how it's  
24 going to unveil itself --

25 Q. Yeah.

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1 A. -- and who the points of contact are that are  
2 familiar with the -- both outreach as well as  
3 residents at the encampment.

4 So that's primarily the Minneapolis Police  
5 Department Commander and their team that visits the  
6 encampments on a regular basis, just like the  
7 Homeless Response Team does.

8 So they are acutely aware of which individuals  
9 actually are residents versus not residents, which  
10 ones are outreach workers, versus not. So we  
11 provide --

12 Q. The -- sorry to interrupt.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. The Minneapolis Commander who would facilitate roll  
15 calls specific to Nenookaasi is -- is who?

16 A. Commander Monica Hanson.

17 Q. Okay.

18 MS. KELLEY: And, yeah, I -- I want to  
19 pause here and just -- I know -- I think we floated  
20 earlier a noon lunch, and I want to respect  
21 everybody's time.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 MS. KELLEY: How -- does that sound okay  
24 to -- to take a break?

25 MS. ENSLIN: Yeah.

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1 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

2 MS. KELLEY: No pressure. We don't have  
3 to. But just -- yeah.4 MS. ENSLIN: What do you think is a good  
5 amount of time for a break? We can be -- we can be  
6 short.

7 MS. KELLEY: That's fine with me.

8 Melissa, how are you feeling?

9 (Court Reporter off-record discussion.)

10 MS. MCQUITTY: Half an hour?

11 MS. KELLEY: Half an hour? Does that --

12 MS. ENSLIN: Yeah. That's great.

13 THE WITNESS: Sure. That's perfect.

14 MS. KELLEY: Okay. Thanks, everybody.

15 (Recess from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

16 (Ms. Glenn leaves videoconference  
17 deposition.)

18 BY MS. KELLEY:

19 Q. I'm going to ask you a bit about shelter beds,  
20 revisiting that conversation from earlier.21 How much funding does the City provide to  
22 organizations that provide beds for homeless people  
23 in the cities -- in the city?24 A. That, I'm not sure off the top of my head how much  
25 money we've provided with respect to -- there's a

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1 couple of different elements.

2 There's capital investment to stand up  
3 shelters and newer operations, then there's ongoing  
4 sustained operations.

5 We've provided one-time funding in each of the  
6 different aspects as different needs have emerged.

7 But I couldn't tell you off the top of my head how  
8 much we've invested for Provider A for capital  
9 investment or improvements versus operations and  
10 how that relates to other shelter operators.

11 Q. Is the City involved in or aware of the rules that  
12 shelters impose on who might -- or who can stay,  
13 for how long, et cetera, at a shelter?

14 A. We are loosely aware of some of the different rules  
15 and requirements. But that's primarily managed by  
16 Hennepin County and the -- and Housing Stability as  
17 far as how those different mechanisms will work  
18 that also align with whatever those -- the scopes  
19 of focus are for each of those different  
20 organizations. Some have a religious affiliation,  
21 and they might have different requirements than  
22 those that are more culturally specific versus not  
23 religious and not culturally focused.

24 Q. And you don't control them?

25 A. We do not, no.

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1 Q. Okay. And when -- when decisions were made, for  
2 example, in anticipation of the January 4th  
3 eviction of Nenookaasi in 2024, who made the  
4 decision to open up additional shelter beds?

5 A. So that was kind of a confluence of different  
6 elements that were all converging on one another.  
7 We recognized that with the existing shelter  
8 capacity as reported by Hennepin County and the  
9 number of individuals that were present at  
10 Camp Nenookaasi on a consistent basis that we  
11 thought were residents who were experiencing  
12 unsheltered homelessness, there was a delta. So we  
13 recognized that there was a need.

14 There was a shelter provider that was already  
15 in the process of working through their  
16 application, their -- I should say their  
17 development. They already were working on their  
18 shelter applications and working on bringing that  
19 effort online, and they already had a timetable on  
20 when they would be able to open and in what  
21 capacity they'd be able to open.

22 So it was an element of working with the  
23 county, work -- who also brought in the shelter  
24 provider, and then working internally to land on a  
25 date that would work that would help individuals

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1 move into a shelter if they so chose and mitigate  
2 the risk of remaining outside in the harsh  
3 environment --

4 Q. Um-hum.

5 A. -- because January is cold.

6 Q. Has the City ever been made aware of complaints  
7 that the shelters provided through this Hennepin  
8 County partnership are unsafe and/or unsanitary?

9 A. I've heard criticisms like that when we offer  
10 access to shelter. And then we take that  
11 information and have -- I've personally taken that  
12 information and provided it to David Hewitt and  
13 others at Hennepin County who then investigate,  
14 through their various channels, but they  
15 investigate the -- the validity of the different  
16 complaints. They've continued to make updates to  
17 the sheltering system and shelter operations to try  
18 and mitigate as many of those different points as  
19 they happen. Or just to identify that while those  
20 specific criticisms might have been true in the  
21 past, they are no longer concerns that people  
22 should have now. It's -- it's older information  
23 that had they been in the -- in the shelters and  
24 been engaged or visited them more frequently in the  
25 recent term -- time, they would see that those

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1 different situations no longer exist.

2 Q. What -- what changes or improvements are you aware  
3 of that have been made to shelters to address these  
4 concerns?

5 A. One in particular that I'm aware of relates to the  
6 reservation system. So historically, if somebody  
7 were in -- in a shelter, they would have to leave  
8 and then call in at a later time to make a  
9 reservation to come back.

10 And now, one of the -- so you -- you -- the  
11 individual would have shelter, they'd have to leave  
12 shelter, and they'd -- they'd have to try and find  
13 their way back into shelter every single day.

14 One of the changes that the county made is --  
15 actually two, with respect to the reservations.

16 One is they no longer charge. So the  
17 individual no longer has to pay for their  
18 reservation. So that cost component was  
19 eliminated.

20 The second is, yes, they will have to leave at  
21 a certain time. Before they leave at that certain  
22 time -- that time certain in the morning, they have  
23 the option to reserve their spot for the next  
24 night. So that is handled before they even leave  
25 for the morning. So that when they come back at --

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1 at night, they -- they at least can leave in --  
2 with a piece of mind knowing that "I don't have to  
3 pay for it. I don't have to find a way to earn  
4 money to pay for my shelter space, and I have a  
5 guaranteed spot right back where I was." So it  
6 eliminates that level of --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- of risk and uncertainty for individuals.

9 Q. When -- when you're evaluating the availability of  
10 a shelter bed, in a scenario where somebody calls  
11 the centralized number, reserves a bed earlier in  
12 the day but then at the end of the day doesn't show  
13 up, is that bed counted as available?

14 A. That bed is ultimately counted as available because  
15 there are multiple check-ins. There's the check-in  
16 at 8 a.m. of here's the landscape of shelter --  
17 shelter beds generally and how many are reserved  
18 versus not reserved and in what -- what  
19 demographic? Is it -- is it mixed? Is it male  
20 only? Is it female? Is -- is it family? What  
21 does it look like?

22 There's a second count that happens middle of  
23 the day between 3 and 4 p.m., then forms for the  
24 evening of how many spaces are truly available  
25 versus how many were reserved in the morning block

1 of time.

2 And then ultimately in the evening time, how  
3 many people actually -- who have a reservation,  
4 actually showed up for that reservation? Because  
5 if they don't show up by a certain period of  
6 time -- I -- I don't recall the exact time. I  
7 think it's -- it might be 10 p.m. If they do not  
8 show by that time -- or -- or they -- they have an  
9 8 p.m. reservation. If they don't show by 10, that  
10 bed is then released and then it's made available  
11 again.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. So somebody who is able to contact the number and  
14 call in, they might find that a bed that was not  
15 available an hour or two hours before is now  
16 available.

17 Q. Do you know how -- if that happens frequently?

18 A. I don't have knowledge on that area of how often it  
19 happens.

20 Q. Yeah. Has anybody from the working group visited a  
21 shelter?

22 A. I know I personally have. I visited a few  
23 different shelters. I've even volunteered at  
24 shelters. But I'm -- I'm not aware of any -- of  
25 our current generation of the working group

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1 members, if they have visited any of our shelters.

2 Q. I'm going to switch gears a little bit. Thanks for  
3 bearing with me.

4 Does the City receive requests or demands from  
5 third parties asking for the City to conduct  
6 evictions?

7 A. A request from third parties? Are -- is that in  
8 reference to private individuals or other  
9 organizations?

10 Q. Well, there are both. Whatever --

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Whatever you're aware of.

13 A. For sure. Sticking with kind of the lens of  
14 Camp Nenookaasi, we did receive requests from  
15 representatives of the Metropolitan Urban Indian  
16 Directors to close Camp Nenookaasi with urgency.

17 Q. What about groups like 21 Days of Peace or  
18 Crimewatch or We Push for Peace?

19 A. I am not aware that the City has received any  
20 requests from any of those groups to close  
21 encampments.

22 Q. Does the City notify any of -- any of those listed  
23 groups in advance of evictions?

24 A. Not to my knowledge, we do not.

25 Q. Aside from service providers and encampment

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1 residents and law enforcement, who else does the  
2 City notify in advance of upcoming encampment  
3 sweeps?

4 A. I'll recharacterize -- characterize briefly. So  
5 law enforcement is present as part of the -- the  
6 working group. So they're --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Minneapolis police is already aware of an impending  
9 closure. But aside from that, the City notifies  
10 Hennepin County. Depending on the proximity of the  
11 encampment to other agencies or other properties,  
12 we may notify the Minneapolis Park and Recreation  
13 Board, notify Minnesota Department of  
14 Transportation, City of Saint Paul.

15 If the encampment is on or near Light Rail or  
16 the bus line and individuals may migrate over to  
17 St. Paul, prompting a response there -- or  
18 prompting the City of Saint Paul to take action in  
19 response to an influx of individuals. We might  
20 notify different entities within Hennepin County.  
21 Aside from those in the Office of Housing  
22 Stability, there's the Hennepin County Property and  
23 Maintenance Group that maintains areas underneath  
24 bridges that cross over county state-aid highways.  
25 Hennepin County, Lake Street, Cedar Avenue, those

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1 are Hennepin County thoroughfares.

2 So if there's a risk that encampments might  
3 move over into those specific spaces or the  
4 encampment is already at a City-owned property  
5 that's adjacent to one of those spaces, we'll  
6 notify the county and make sure that they're aware  
7 that we plan to close and see if they would like to  
8 partner with us, how they would like to handle this  
9 so that we can move together in unison.

10 We'll also notify Metro Transit, especially in  
11 the event that the encampment is in close proximity  
12 to Light Rail so that they can also engage with the  
13 Homeless Action Team at various stops along the --  
14 the Light Rail.

15 Q. Specifically regarding Nenookaasi evictions -- and  
16 let me know if you need me to go back over what I  
17 mean when I say "Nenookaasi evictions" -- had the  
18 City been made aware of any instances where notice  
19 to service providers was not given in advance of a  
20 Nenookaasi encampment sweep?

21 A. Just give me one -- one moment to run through the  
22 list of --

23 Q. Take your time.

24 A. -- sites where Nenookaasi has operated.

25 I can definitively say that with respect to

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1           the third Nenookaasi iteration, which I believe was  
2           in place end of January to February 1st or 2nd --

3   Q.     Um-hum.

4   A.     -- of 2020- -- what year is this? -- 2024.

5   Q.     Correct.

6   A.     That service providers were not provided advance  
7           notice of that one. Also recognizing that the  
8           encampment was in place for a period of, at most,  
9           three days, I believe --

10   Q.     Okay.

11   A.     -- and was closed in response to emerging  
12           situations with community members and the residents  
13           at the encampment that created an unsafe  
14           environment for all the individuals involved. So  
15           we moved to swift closure of that specific  
16           encampment.

17   Q.     Do you remember if residents of the encampment were  
18           given advance notice, the third encampment?

19   A.     To my recollection, yes, they were given advance  
20           notice. I do not recall if -- oh, actually, I do  
21           recall that there was a -- a posting that happened  
22           at that location.

23                 In terms of did it meet the three days? It  
24                 did not meet the three days, and it was because of  
25                 the emerging safety risk to community and the

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1 residents at the encampment.

2 But verbally they were given notice. They had  
3 notice in advance since this was a fenced lot with  
4 "No Trespassing" signage no- -- posted that was  
5 removed and then later replaced and then removed  
6 again.

7 Q. And just with regards to any of those other  
8 Nenookaasi evictions that you were running through  
9 in your mind, was there instances you can recall  
10 where service providers were not given notice in  
11 advance of an eviction?

12 A. Not to -- not as far as I recall.

13 Q. I'm going to use the term "Civilian Crime  
14 Prevention Organization," and then I'm going to  
15 define it.

16 A. (Witness nods head.)

17 Q. Are you familiar with We Push for Peace?

18 A. I'm loosely familiar with them. I've heard the  
19 name, but I'm not terribly familiar with the  
20 organization.

21 Q. Or 21 Days of Peace is another one?

22 A. Yeah -- excuse me; apologies -- similar. I'm  
23 familiar with them, but I'm -- I'm not terribly  
24 familiar with the organization or how they operate.

25 Q. Does the City have any communication with these

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1 types of civilian crime investigation groups?

2 A. I can't really speak to how they might converge in  
3 other aspects of the City's work. For example, if  
4 they're engaged in behavioral crisis response or  
5 neighborhood policing or how any of those specific  
6 departments within the City might engage  
7 organizations such as this.

8 What I can say is that with respect to the  
9 City's response to unsheltered homelessness, we do  
10 not have an engagement or affiliation or any sort  
11 of contracts of any kind with those two different  
12 organizations.

13 Q. Sure. Thank you. I'm going to ask about Helix --  
14 the Helix Health and Housing Service -- Services,  
15 but I might call it Helix for short.

16 Will you understand what I'm talking about if  
17 I just say "Helix"?

18 A. I will. Certainly.

19 Q. Okay. Would you tell me about the contract between  
20 the City and Helix with the opioid settlement  
21 money? Just a -- an overview of what that  
22 contract's purpose was.

23 A. Certainly. So the He- -- the Helix Health and --  
24 and Housing Services came about -- we recognize  
25 that unsheltered homelessness is untenable. We're

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1           trying to find different pathways to address  
2           unsheltered homelessness and listen to the  
3           individuals that are experiencing unsheltered  
4           homelessness. We heard safety. We heard, "The  
5           individuals in the encampment are" -- "are my  
6           support group." "We are family." And that the  
7           existing Social Service organizations have a very  
8           finite definition of family. It's -- you know,  
9           it's a couple with child. It's -- that is  
10          contractually bound to one another in some -- some  
11          way through adoption, through marriage, various  
12          ways to identify what family is.

13           And what we saw at encampments, while "family"  
14          did not meet that definition -- so individuals, if  
15          they chose to go into shelter, had to separate.

16           And maybe one person goes into shelter, but they  
17          cannot move in as a family unit. The other person  
18          has to stay behind or the other people who are part  
19          of their family have to stay behind.

20           And the overall focus is helping people  
21          exercise their agency so that they can transition  
22          from unsheltered into stable housing.

23           So members of Red Lake came to us with a  
24          proposal for Helix, which would allow for cohorts  
25          of individuals to move into stable, supportive

1       housing. They would go through the process of  
2       qualifying these individuals. And the primary  
3       focus was on individuals who are indigenous -- from  
4       indigenous communities that would allow Helix to  
5       tap into federal dollars specifically earmarked for  
6       Urban Indian Affairs.

7           So by utilizing these funding -- this funding  
8       source, they would be able to maintain a -- a  
9       revenue stream from the federal government to  
10      these -- to stand up the supportive services model  
11      that allows Helix and Red Lake Nation to engage in  
12      culturally relevant and culturally specific healing  
13      and wraparound services for these individuals that  
14      does not strip away their identity.

15           It focuses on treating the addiction or the  
16      mental health or whatever the -- the specific  
17      elements are.

18           So how it came about, through interagency, our  
19      intergovernment relations, Red Lake Nation engaging  
20      with the Mayor of Minneapolis and his office, who  
21      then heard the proposal, what the ask was, and  
22      presented it to our unsheltered work group.

23           So we agreed that it -- it made sense. And  
24      the focus initially was for a cohort of a maximum  
25      of 32 individuals. Over time, it would grow to 32.

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1       But they would move into supportive housing,  
2       provide the wraparound services.

3           And then over a few years of time, they would  
4       eventually be able to transition out of the  
5       supportive housing into stable housing elsewhere to  
6       free up space so that more individuals could then  
7       move in as a cohort.

8 Q.       Mr. Velazquez, I really deeply appreciate the  
9       thoroughness of what you prepared, and I don't mean  
10      to -- to cut you off. But just in the interest  
11      of -- you're -- you're --

12 A.       Oh, sure.

13 Q.       -- answering a lot of questions that I'm about to  
14      get to later on in my outline, and it --

15 A.       Oh, yeah.

16 Q.       -- might make more sense, for a clear record, if --  
17      if you could answer the question I'm asking, and  
18      then I'll get to the next one. But I definitely  
19      appreciate the --

20 A.       Thank you.

21 Q.       -- thoroughness of your answers.

22           Was there a -- a basis for the decision to go  
23      with Helix without doing any kind of bidding or  
24      requests for proposals?

25 A.       So the -- the -- the City -- as I mentioned earlier

1       on, the City can go through a couple of different  
2       avenues. We can do a request for proposal or we  
3       can do sole source.

4                  And the way that the Helix structured the --  
5       the proposal, we chose to go with the sole source  
6       to try and stand this -- this one- -- one-time  
7       funding option up to see how effective it could be  
8       and if there's appetite to move in a different  
9       direction.

10      Q.     At any point, were there other organizations  
11            considered besides Helix?

12      A.     To my knowledge, Red Lake was the only one that  
13            came forward with this proposal.

14      Q.     And do you remember who the individuals were at  
15            Red Lake -- Red Lake who introduced this idea?

16      A.     If I recall, it was Adam Fairbanks.

17      Q.     Does the -- does the contract with Helix require  
18            Helix to verify the individuals remain housed past  
19            their initial placement?

20      A.     So the contract with Helix was one-time funding in  
21            2023 to stand up their program. But there were no  
22            other requirements or -- or any sort of other --  
23            how would you say -- other metrics that we were  
24            measuring in terms of the effectiveness and  
25            efficacy of their -- the program.

1 Q. So like the -- what would you say is areas that  
2 exist, if any, where the City has oversight in how  
3 Helix performs their contract?

4 A. Again, this was one-time funding to stand up the  
5 operation. Their ongoing operation is solely up to  
6 them.

7                   What I can also say is that we're currently  
8 working through a document review to make sure that  
9 the money that they asked for and the money that  
10 the City provided, that those two things match.

11                  So through the Minneapolis Health Department,  
12 they're going through reviewing every invoice,  
13 tracking all of the expenditures to make sure that  
14 what Helix said they were going to spend the money  
15 on, they actually spent the money on.

16 Q. Does the City receive notice when people who obtain  
17 housing through Helix are later evicted or  
18 displaced?

19 A. We do not -- as a city, we do not receive notice of  
20 when individuals are evicted from Helix housing or  
21 any other housing.

22 Q. Do -- do Helix residents pay for any part of their  
23 housing costs?

24 A. I don't know that I'm able to answer that in terms  
25 of how --

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1 Q. Totally fine.

2 A. -- how they operate.

3 Q. Did -- were you aware of the complaint sent to the  
4 City about Helix and how they've been operating?

5 A. I am aware of the complaint, yes.

6 Q. Would you just describe, like, how that complaint  
7 has been addressed?

8 A. To my knowledge, that's part of how we moved into  
9 the space where the Health Department, which is the  
10 entity that ultimately provided the funding to  
11 Helix and managed that specific launching of the  
12 contract, they're doing the document review. So  
13 evaluating the invoices, evaluating all the  
14 expenditures and working with the principals at  
15 Helix to evaluate how they have navigated in  
16 this -- this specific space of the framework.

17 Q. Is that evaluation in response to the complaint?

18 A. I believe so, yes. I'm not 100 percent positive if  
19 this was already baked in or if this was directly  
20 in response.

21 Q. Switching -- switching gears a little bit. The --  
22 you mentioned earlier the "No Trespassing" signs  
23 and the posting being contracted to a -- a  
24 management company.

25 Does the City contract out other forms of

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1           labor surrounding evictions? For example, putting  
2           fences up or sweeping -- like, physically removing  
3           possessions? Is that contract work?

4       A. I can say that for the cleanup work, that is not  
5           contracted. That's Public Works staff that manage  
6           that.

7                   As far as fencing, that would depend. If it's  
8           a City-owned parcel, there's two different avenues.  
9                   Either the City of Minneapolis Public Works will  
10          manage that work or our Community Plan- -- Planning  
11          and Economic Development, they have the property  
12          management contract and they could utilize the  
13          contract there.

14                   If it's a private parcel, Public Works could  
15          do that work, or we -- we might contract with a  
16          third party to do the fencing work for the property  
17          owner and then bill that back to them. So it kind  
18          of depends on the situation and resource  
19          availability at the time.

20       Q. Who made the decision to spend American Rescue Plan  
21          Act funding on putting fences up?

22       A. I would have to say that I don't know that American  
23          Rescue Plan Act dollars are used for fencing  
24          purposes.

25       Q. What's the -- who makes the decision generally

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1       where to put fencing up around City property  
2       specifically?

3     A.    Okay. Thank you. Yeah, around City property  
4       specifically? Generally all City-owned lots, which  
5       is to say those owned by Community Planning and  
6       Economic Development, are fenced and signed --

7     Q.    And is the --

8     A.    -- and that decision comes from -- it would be the  
9       property owner, which is Community Planning and  
10       Economic Development.

11    Q.    So the mechanics of how that decision arises and  
12       comes to pass, like, what communications are had  
13       to -- to mechanically create and implement that  
14       decision?

15    A.    I believe it's more of a tacit decision of these  
16       are City-owned parcels, we need to -- as a property  
17       owner, the City needs to live by the same standard  
18       that privately owned properties need to take, which  
19       is they need to secure the property. And that's  
20       the mechanism that leadership within Community  
21       Planning and Economic Development chose and chose  
22       to fence all City-owned properties.

23    Q.    Okay.

24    A.    So it's not a mechanism of when are we fencing one  
25       property versus another. It's all properties will

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1           be fenced and will be maintained by the management  
2           company.

3   Q.     Has that always been the case?

4   A.     That has been the case at least for as long as I've  
5           been in the -- within Regulatory Services. So for  
6           a little over two years, that has been the case,  
7           and City-owned properties have been fenced.

8   Q.     What is the -- the purpose of putting fencing up?

9   A.     So citing Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 244.60,  
10          Erecting temporary structures for the purpose of  
11          dwelling is unlawful, and it's the property owner's  
12          responsibility to make sure that the property meets  
13          and follows property and housing maintenance code,  
14          which includes securing the property to prevent  
15          trespass. So that's the focus. It's a  
16          lower-barrier security mechanism to prevent people  
17          from trespassing on -- on property.

18   Q.     Is the eventual goal that all City property has  
19          secure fencing around it?

20   A.     All City-owned property has secure fencing on it.

21   Q.     Okay. And is there -- is there a thought or intent  
22          of where unhoused folks are supposed to go but  
23          for -- like, if not for these fenced-in properties?

24   A.     The thought is that individuals who are  
25          experiencing unsheltered homelessness should seek

1           shelter indoors in supportive housing, in shelters,  
2           in indoor spaces.

3       Q.     For -- for the encampment sweeps, you mentioned  
4           Public Works does some of the services, and there  
5           are contractors who do other work in conjunction  
6           with encampment sweeps.

7                  Do you know the names of any of those  
8           contractors and what they -- what services they  
9           offer?

10      A.     So I mentioned that Public Works will do the  
11           cleanup of the encampment and they may do fencing.  
12           Private contractors that might be involved  
13           depending on property type? I'm not positive of  
14           the contractor that Community Planning and Economic  
15           Development uses for their property management. I  
16           believe that's also the organization that would be  
17           responsible for the fencing. Otherwise, there is  
18           another contract with Hansen Brothers Fence  
19           Company.

20      Q.     Okay. And are -- are those contracts standing  
21           agreements or case-by-case responsive to evictions?

22      A.     So with respect to the Community Planning and  
23           Economic Development contractor and Hansen  
24           Brothers, I'll separate -- I'll separate those two.  
25                  Community Planning and Economic Development's

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1 contractor is not specific to encampment response.

2 It's specific to property management.

3 So with all the City-owned properties being  
4 fenced, their role is to make sure that the  
5 property -- the grass is cut, weeds are cut back,  
6 trees are maintained, that every single one of the  
7 City-owned parcels meet and abide by the housing  
8 and property maintenance code. And -- and if the  
9 fence is damaged, they need to repair the fence.

10 If signage is missing, they need to address that.

11 So whatever the deficiency is, their focus is on  
12 returning the property to compliance.

13 For Hansen Brothers, that contract, I believe,  
14 is with Public Works, and it's -- I don't recall  
15 how many years that contract is. I don't have that  
16 information right in front of me. But it's for  
17 a -- a variety of different needs, whether it's  
18 fencing around construction projects, whether it's  
19 for provide -- providing safe pathways if there's  
20 nearby construction around sidewalks, things like  
21 that, and it also includes for properties --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- in response to unsheltered homelessness  
24 encampments.

25 Q. Who's -- who is in charge of depositing the

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1           concrete rubble blocks on evicted sites?

2   A.    So the concrete rubble comes from Public Works. So  
3           that would be Public Works that would procure and  
4           place those materials.

5   Q.    Is there any criteria for deciding where those --  
6           the rubble gets deposited?

7   A.    Yes. The criteria is if we evaluated -- we, as in  
8           the unsheltered work group -- evaluated sites that  
9           are of a certain size where it might be an  
10          attractive target for an encampment to form,  
11          structures of some kind, whether it's riprap,  
12          rubble, limestone, utility poles, they were placed  
13          at these different locations.

14           If the location is the site of a former  
15          encampment, then to prevent people from reoccupying  
16          those spaces, all those different mechanisms were  
17          evaluated and -- and employed as well.

18   Q.    And that's -- the working group makes that  
19          decision?

20   A.    Correct, or a subset of it. Public Works. A lot  
21          of these properties are owned by Community Planning  
22          and Economic Development. So that group, plus  
23          Public Works, plus myself would evaluate where and  
24          how to place those.

25   Q.    And where does -- where does the funding come for

1                   that?

2   A.   Well, the rubble is already present from various  
3                   construction projects and it's just offsite at a  
4                   holding facility. And the funding for the actual  
5                   transportation and placement is from Public Works.

6   Q.   Okay. Are you familiar with the website -- it's  
7                   titled, "Minneapolis DataSource Vacant and  
8                   Condemned Property Dashboard"?

9   A.   Yes, I am familiar with that website.

10   Q.   Do you know who -- who updates it, manages it?

11   A.   So that website is one of the work products for  
12                   Regulatory Services, Inspections Services division.  
13                   They curate the information. Management would be  
14                   from Operations and Engagement data analysts.

15   Q.   Is there like one individual person who is tasked  
16                   with, like, actually going in and doing the  
17                   computer nerd thing to keep that data up to date?

18   A.   Not one individual, no.

19   Q.   Is it something that multiple people have access  
20                   to?

21   A.   Yes. I can describe kind of the -- the work if you  
22                   prefer.

23   Q.   Yes, please.

24   A.   Okay. So we have an Enterprise Land Management  
25                   System as a back end. And we have a strategic

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1           inspections group that oversees our vacant and  
2           boarded building and vacant property list.

3           So as they go through and evaluate those  
4           vacant properties, that information gets entered  
5           into our Enterprise Land Management System. And  
6           then data analysts create a dashboard that  
7           automatically scrapes that information and provides  
8           updates on a routine basis.

9       Q.     I'm going to bring us back to a topic we were -- we  
10      were getting at before we took our lunch break, the  
11      roll call, and specific to each Nenookaasi  
12      encampment.

13           And let's -- let's start with the January 4th,  
14      that first Nenookaasi eviction from the big camp.

15           Why -- whose decision was it to delay that  
16      eviction past its initial announced eviction date?

17       A.     So that was -- if I recall, that was more of a  
18      collaborative decision to delay the closure. And  
19      the reason being is recognizing that we had a delta  
20      between the number of individuals that were at the  
21      encampment versus what was available in terms of  
22      shelter capacity. So we wanted to allow time to  
23      true up those two numbers.

24       Q.     Do you remember at its peak approximately how many  
25      people were at that encampment?

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1 A. If I recall, it was around 150 people.

2 Q. And over time, did that number change?

3 A. Over time, yes, the number definitely changed. It  
4 started out smaller and then more people entered  
5 the space and people -- it was kind of a waterfall  
6 effect is what I would describe it as.

7 As people moved out of the encampment and  
8 moved into supportive housing, more people came in  
9 replacing them and then more people came on top of  
10 that, which got us to approximately 150.

11 Q. And do you have a sense of why -- why people were  
12 able to -- actually, let me start -- let me start  
13 with -- do you know about how many people were able  
14 to move from that encampment into supportive or  
15 transitional housing?

16 A. You could probably separate that question into  
17 leading up to the closure and then maybe day of  
18 closure.

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. So leading up to the closure, I'm not -- I'm not  
21 aware of how many were able to move into stable or  
22 supportive housing outside of the numbers that were  
23 reported from Helix because I believe they were  
24 able to move 104 people into housing leading up to  
25 the closure and on the day of closure.

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1 Q. 104 people combined leading up to the day of  
2 closure?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And do you have any idea, like, why that number is  
5 so -- is what it is?

6 A. Why Helix was able to move 104 people?

7 Q. From Nenookaasi to housing, yeah.

8 A. From Nenookaasi? From my recollection of  
9 engagements with Helix, it was the process they  
10 went through to identify individuals in the  
11 encampment.

12 The Homeless Response Team communicated in  
13 advance that members from Helix would be going  
14 on-site and engaging with individuals to do some  
15 level of screening or assessment, if you will, and  
16 they were identifying cohorts of the people to move  
17 into housing.

18 So I think it's that process plus the fact  
19 that the individuals who are working at Helix are  
20 members of Red Lake. They are providing culturally  
21 relevant, culturally specific services, which is  
22 part of what Camp Nenookaasi has been asking for.

23 Having healing that's culturally specific and  
24 supportive housing that is culturally specific and  
25 being able to move as a cohort and move with their

1 definition of family.

2 So a combination of those factors helped Helix  
3 and helped Camp Nenookaasi move that many people  
4 from the camp into housing.

5 Q. Did the working group or anybody with the City  
6 confirm prior to the January 4th eviction that  
7 there was more available shelter beds that night  
8 than residents of Nenookaasi?

9 A. Yes, we did do that verification in combination  
10 with what we had -- what I already stated for --  
11 for Helix and what they reported to us, plus the  
12 new shelter Rescue Now that came online and their  
13 beds, plus Shelter Connect that added shelter  
14 space, and the new information -- updated reporting  
15 from Hennepin County.

16 Q. And do you remember on January 4th who was present  
17 on behalf of the City at that eviction?

18 A. While I do not recall all the individuals that were  
19 present, I can say that I was present; the  
20 Community Planning and Economic Development  
21 Director, Erik Hansen, was present; the Housing  
22 Policy and Development Director, Elfric Porte; the  
23 Director of Solid Waste and Recycling,  
24 David Herberholz; then manager of the Homeless  
25 Response Team, Christina Dowling. Those are just

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1 individuals that I recall offhand. There were many  
2 others that were present as well.

3 Q. And this roll call meeting, does that happen  
4 on-site?

5 A. Typically, roll call will happen off-site in  
6 advance. Yes, off-site.

7 Q. Okay. Are there meeting minutes taken at the roll  
8 call?

9 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

10 Q. Are there reports or instructions or scripts  
11 prepared in advance and brought to the roll call,  
12 like a briefing?

13 A. There is a PowerPoint-style briefing that is  
14 prepared and presented.

15 Q. Who -- who prepares that?

16 A. That would be the Commander for Procedural Justice  
17 within the Minneapolis Police Department who  
18 oversees the police liaisons into the unsheltered  
19 homeless work group.

20 Q. And at that meeting, is it communicated to  
21 everybody whether or not service providers are  
22 allowed inside the police perimeter?

23 A. I'm trying to recall the potential scripting and  
24 where that specific element might come into my  
25 track. So just bear with me as I process through

1                   it.

2 Q.        Okay.

3 A.        There is scripting in there that identifies whether  
4                   homeless -- or sorry -- outreach workers, that  
5                   they're notified and which ones we anticipate  
6                   arriving and who the points of contact are to  
7                   engage with to allow them in to -- for the purpose  
8                   of assisting individuals pack up and leave the --  
9                   the area.

10 Q.       For the January 4th eviction, what were the  
11                   restrictions at that roll call around who could or  
12                   couldn't enter the encampment to assist with people  
13                   getting out and moving things out?

14 A.       At that specific roll call for January 4th, there  
15                   were no restrictions placed.

16 Q.       And were -- were residents given any time limits on  
17                   packing up their belongings?

18 A.       No. Residents were not given a specific time  
19                   limit.

20 Q.       And after the January 4th eviction, what happened  
21                   to belongings that weren't packed up?

22 A.       So any belongings that were left on premise that  
23                   individuals did not identify that they were coming  
24                   back for or that they needed assistance in taking  
25                   down or removing, those, I believe, were discarded.

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1 Q. Were they documented or had pictures taken of them  
2 or inventoried in any way before being discarded?

3 A. Any items that appeared to be of value, I believe,  
4 were documented and either left with -- Public  
5 Works, I believe, left them with the police liaison  
6 to the unsheltered work group. Otherwise, they  
7 were not documented.

8 Q. Do you have a sense of, like, the -- the volume of  
9 belongings at -- at that January 1st eviction that  
10 were destroyed?

11 MS. ENSLIN: Objection. Calls for  
12 speculation.

13 A. Several dump trucks' worth.

14 BY MS. KELLEY:

15 Q. And a sense of how many -- what -- what volume and  
16 types of objects were categorized as valuable and  
17 retained?

18 A. I believe there was a backpack that appeared to  
19 con- -- contain contents that were set aside in  
20 case the individual decided to come back for it.

21 Q. Do you mean set aside at -- at the site?

22 A. At the site, handed to the Minneapolis police  
23 liaison to the unsheltered response work group who  
24 engages --

25 Q. Do you know --

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1 A. -- with individuals at the encampments regularly.

2 Q. Do you know who that person is, the police liaison?

3 A. Yes, I know who -- who it is. We've had a couple  
4 of staffing transitions, so I'm trying to recall  
5 who specifically was there on that day. I believe  
6 it was Lieutenant Carlson. That's what I --

7 Q. Do you have a sense of how many law enforcement  
8 total were at that eviction, the January 4th  
9 eviction?

10 A. No, I do not.

11 Q. Okay. Do you know who decides how many law  
12 enforcement to dispatch to any given eviction?

13 A. So the dispatch of law enforcement is dependent on  
14 the situations on-site and on the scene and in the  
15 area. So it could be quite a few. It could be  
16 very few. And not all are present on-site. There  
17 are certain individuals that are allocated for bike  
18 response; others for booking; others for, you know,  
19 other aid; others for setting up a perimeter.

20 Q. Booking in the event that arrests are made?

21 A. Correct, in case that's needed.

22 Q. To your knowledge, have there been arrests at  
23 Nenookaasi evictions?

24 A. To my knowledge, we have not had a single arrest at  
25 any of the Nenookaasi encampment evictions.

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1 Q. Have arrests been threatened at Nenookaasi  
2 encampment evictions?

3 A. The only threat of arrest that I recall is for  
4 outside agitators, not individuals who are  
5 experiencing unsheltered homelessness that were  
6 looking to leave the area.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So agitators that were looking to disrupt the  
9 process of orderly closure and clearing of the  
10 site.

11 Q. Do you remember what -- what the outside agitators  
12 were doing?

13 A. If I recall, they were standing in opposition to a  
14 representative for -- for the City, who was  
15 advising of the notice of trespass, not willing to  
16 move out of the way, not allowing closure to move  
17 forward.

18 Q. Okay. And at the Nenookaasi number one eviction,  
19 how did the City ensure that residents were made  
20 aware of transportation and housing options? Yeah,  
21 like -- that's -- full -- full question.

22 How -- how were they made aware of their  
23 transportation and housing options on the first  
24 Nenookaasi eviction?

25 A. Sure. With respect to the first Camp Nenookaasi

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1 closure, we had met with the organizers in advance  
2 and worked on -- or worked towards a specific  
3 closure date. Even with delays to the dates of  
4 closure, we made sure, as a body, that we were  
5 engaged and working with them so that they were  
6 aware, which was the request, that they be aware,  
7 the organizers be made aware.

8 And then as the Homeless Response Team would  
9 go out, as others would go out from the Minneapolis  
10 Police Department Liaison Team or outreach workers,  
11 that organizers were made aware and individuals  
12 were made aware of busing options, busing to  
13 shelter, busing to the Catholic Charities Frey  
14 Opportunity Center on the day of closure, and  
15 options with -- with Helix and others that there  
16 are these housing options that are -- are being  
17 made available.

18 Q. Who -- who did you meet with? Like, who are the  
19 camp organizers that you met with?

20 A. So to my recollection, it was Nicole --  
21 Nicole Mason.

22 Q. Anyone else?

23 A. I'm trying to recall if there was another  
24 individual or if it was solely Nicole Mason. I was  
25 out for one of those meetings. So I -- I'm -- I'm

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1 not positive if Christin Crabtree was also  
2 represented as -- as part of the -- that  
3 discussion.

4 Q. And who from the City or other nonencampment  
5 representatives were at those meetings?

6 A. That would be C- -- Chief Operations Officer  
7 Margaret Anderson Kelliher. Mayor Frey was also  
8 present at one of the meetings. The meeting that I  
9 missed, those two were present. Michael Obama and  
10 Peter Ebnet, both from the Mayor's office. And I'm  
11 not positive if there were others outside of this  
12 group that were -- of the individuals that I  
13 mentioned that were present.

14 Q. I'm going to move us to the second Nenookaasi camp.  
15 That was the one that was evicted on January 30th  
16 and that it was on 14th Avenue near 2601.

17 Do you -- do you recall why that camp was  
18 evicted? What led to that eviction?

19 A. Other than those individuals were trespassing on --  
20 on property, the other factors that led to the  
21 closure, excessive smoke.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. It was disrupting neighbors and quality of --  
24 quality of life, air quality for vulnerable  
25 individuals that lived immediately surrounding the

1                   encampment.

2 Q.       Were there other specific security concerns that  
3                   incentivized the eviction?

4 A.       There was an individual that was shot and killed  
5                   directly in front of the encampment after running  
6                   out of the encampment.

7 Q.       Do you know if that was a resident?

8 A.       I do not know if it was a resident or somebody who  
9                   was visiting individuals at the encampment.

10 Q.       And whose decision was it to move forward with the  
11                   January 30th eviction?

12 A.       Collectively that came from the unsheltered working  
13                   group.

14 Q.       And did you all confirm prior to that decision that  
15                   the City had more available shelter beds than  
16                   encampment residents?

17 A.       We did.

18 Q.       How was that confirmed?

19 A.       Engagement with Hennepin County to verify shelter  
20                   capacity and availability, engagement with their  
21                   service agencies and partners, also connection with  
22                   Helix Health and Housing Services to see what  
23                   capacity they had. So collectively evaluating the  
24                   system just to make sure that there was enough  
25                   space.

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1 Q. Was there a -- there was a roll call prior to that  
2 eviction?

3 A. Yes. That's right.

4 Q. And, sorry, just to -- just to clarify, were there  
5 instructions at that roll call that were different  
6 from instructions on the January 4th roll call with  
7 regards to who could enter the perimeter? Let's  
8 start there.

9 A. Not that I recollect, no.

10 Q. Okay. At that roll call, was there instructions  
11 given placing limits on the number of trips that  
12 residents could make with their belongings?

13 A. No, not at all.

14 Q. Were law enforcement given any instructions about  
15 who they could or could not let into the perimeter?

16 A. The only direction was for individuals that were  
17 looking to get in, to connect them with the police  
18 liaison.

19 Q. Was the police --

20 A. And that police -- sorry.

21 Q. Was the police liaison then instructed to allow  
22 them in?

23 A. The police liaison would then evaluate if the  
24 individual was -- what was the nature of those that  
25 were looking to get in? Was it for obstruction?

1           Was it to volunteer to help carry items out? Were  
2           they a resident? Were they an outreach worker? So  
3           just more so for that immediate identification of  
4           who is the individual looking to get in, and then  
5           the liaison would escort them in.

6   Q.     Did people require an escort to be let in at that  
7           eviction?

8   A.     I believe that would be yes. Yes.

9   Q.     And you listed a couple of categories of people,  
10           and I -- I don't want to assume.

11           Just to be clear, agitators would not be  
12           allowed in but everyone else would?

13   A.     Yes. Correct.

14   Q.     And was there a time limit placed on how long  
15           residents would have to pack their things up?

16   A.     No, there was no time limit.

17   Q.     Okay. Is there a -- a debrief or a feedback  
18           process after eviction with the different City  
19           agents and agencies who participate in them?

20   A.     Yes. During our regular unsheltered working group  
21           meetings, post closure, we'd lead off the next  
22           meeting with a debrief on the closure: "What went  
23           well?" "What didn't go so well?" "What are some  
24           things that we need to improve upon?" "What can we  
25           do more of?"

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1 Q. And are there people who are not ordinarily part of  
2 that working group who are able to give input into  
3 that debrief?

4 A. The debrief is comprised of all the different  
5 entities that are present or have a role from the  
6 City perspective.

7 So the short answer, generally no. We also  
8 should have all those different voices already  
9 represented in the work group.

10 Q. Okay. So going back to the -- the second -- the  
11 January 30th eviction at Nenookaasi.

12 Are you aware of any residents who weren't  
13 inside the encampment at the time the eviction  
14 began?

15 A. I am not.

16 Q. Okay. Are you -- were you present at that second  
17 eviction?

18 A. Yes, I was.

19 Q. So do you have a sense of at the end of the day  
20 when everyone had left, how much stuff was left?

21 A. There was quite a bit of debris. Not nearly as  
22 much as with the first Nenookaasi closure but  
23 certainly a -- a fair amount of debris.

24 Q. Was there any documentation process that the City  
25 engaged in over the items that were left?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. Was there any -- anything sorted into valuable or  
3 unvaluable?

4 A. Not at that closure, no.

5 Q. So everything was -- was dumpstered essentially?

6 A. To my knowledge, that's correct. Anything that was  
7 not classified as potentially stolen property or  
8 high value that people have reported as stolen.

9 Q. Does somebody go through the belongings to see what  
10 might be stolen or of high value at that eviction?

11 A. For large items, for example, if somebody were to  
12 claim that their ring was stolen, we would have no  
13 way of identifying that ring within everything  
14 else. But a bicycle or a motorcycle or a  
15 snowblower, those larger items, it would be easier  
16 to identify. Propane tanks, we've had reports of  
17 those being stolen. So setting those larger  
18 valuable items aside so that police can go through  
19 the process of evaluating whether the description  
20 matches with what's recovered on the site.

21 Q. And do you remember about how many law enforcement  
22 were at that second eviction?

23 A. I do not remember how many were.

24 Q. Do you remember anybody at that eviction wanting  
25 to -- to be gathering more of their belongings but

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1 not being allowed to?

2 A. No, I do not.

3 Q. Let's move us to the -- the February 1st eviction.

4 So that was the really quick turnaround, the third  
5 iteration of Nenookaasi on 16th Avenue, and that  
6 was the one where you mentioned there was -- there  
7 wasn't notice to service providers or -- or  
8 72 hours to residents. Just to remind us of which  
9 one that was.

10 What -- what precipitated the quick eviction  
11 there? Was it any specific incidents?

12 A. Yes. The surrounding neighbors and the residents,  
13 those in- -- individuals experiencing unsheltered  
14 homelessness, started to engage in a confrontation.  
15 The community wanted the encampment gone. They  
16 wanted the encampment to not set up. And things  
17 were escalating. Tempers were flaring. And we  
18 needed to maintain a law enforcement presence  
19 on-site around the clock to try and mitigate and  
20 de-escalate the situation. That's what  
21 precipitated the closure.

22 Q. How was the City made aware of the conflict between  
23 the housed and unhoused neighbors of that  
24 community?

25 A. That was from phone calls from the community to law

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1 enforcement, calls to 911, other parties that were  
2 observant of what was happening calling 911 to  
3 report what they were witnessing.

4 Q. And who from the City was present at that eviction?

5 A. So at that specific closure, since it was only a  
6 matter of days, I believe it was solely law  
7 enforcement that was present at the closure. I'm  
8 not aware of others that were present.

9 Q. Were you at that one?

10 A. I was not.

11 Q. And did you -- do you know if there was a roll call  
12 in advance of that eviction?

13 A. There was a -- there was a roll call.

14 Q. And were instructions given at that roll call with  
15 respect to how many trips that residents could make  
16 with their belongings in and out of the encampment?

17 A. There were no instructions with regard to number of  
18 trips people can make. The focus is on as long as  
19 people are making progress towards leaving the  
20 site, there's really no time limit and no limit to  
21 the number of trips.

22 Q. Okay. Is that -- is that universally true from  
23 eviction to eviction? They don't -- law  
24 enforcement are not instructed on a trip limit?

25 A. Correct. That's correct.

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1 Q. Okay. Was there a time limit placed on that third  
2 eviction?

3 A. No, there's no time limit.

4 Q. Is it -- is it something that you're aware of that  
5 law enforcement de facto enforce a trip limit or  
6 create that requirement?

7 A. No, I'm not aware that anyone in law enforcement  
8 would create that -- that limit or that  
9 requirement. The focus is on ensuring people are  
10 making progress towards leaving the site. We don't  
11 want to hold on to their property. If they would  
12 like to take it, by all means, we -- we've -- I've  
13 even seen police officers assist people in carrying  
14 items out or getting -- getting items over to  
15 volunteers or to vehicles. The City does not want  
16 to hold on to any of that property. So whatever it  
17 takes, we'll -- we'll work with those individuals  
18 to make it happen.

19 Q. And at that third eviction with regards to the --  
20 the instructions on the perimeter, was there any  
21 criteria about who would or wouldn't be allowed to  
22 enter the encampment to help evacuate residents?

23 A. Similar to other closures, instructions are to  
24 notify the police liaison, so basically the  
25 incident commander, and that person will make the

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1 determination, or walk over to talk to the  
2 individual and walk them through just to make sure  
3 that they are truly there to -- to help, to  
4 volunteer or provide services and not to disrupt.

5 So if they don't have a reason to be in the  
6 encampment or inside the perimeter, they're not  
7 allowed inside the perimeter. That's kind of the  
8 basic binary decision.

9 Q. And then with -- with residents who are going in  
10 and out, do they have to check back in with that  
11 police liaison every time they're going in and out?

12 A. No, they do not.

13 Q. Do service providers and community members and  
14 assistants have to check in with that liaison every  
15 time they go in and out?

16 A. No, just the initial time. And if I can provide a  
17 little context around that?

18 Q. Yeah, please do.

19 A. So the police liaison -- or that -- that police  
20 liaison unit, the commander and lieutenant and  
21 sergeant, they're engaged, they're at the  
22 encampments on a regular basis. They're building  
23 relationships. They know who the outreach workers  
24 are. They know who the individuals that are  
25 resident at these encampments are. So it's easier

1           for them to identify who is there to collect their  
2           belongings, who's there as a resident, those kinds  
3           of things, versus a police officer that works in a  
4           completely different precinct in a different sector  
5           of the City who is assigned to this work as a  
6           detail. That person is not going to know.

7       Q.     Right.

8       A.     So that's where -- to try and make it as open and  
9           transparent a process as possible, all of those  
10          different decisions are funneled to the liaison,  
11          who can then walk over and make the determination  
12          and walk those people in. So rather than . . .

13      Q.     (Attorney nods head.)

14      A.     It -- it creates a little bit of a barrier. But  
15          we're trying to create an environment where those  
16          who really need to be there have the opportunity  
17          to -- to be there and to help or move their  
18          belongings out versus those that are just  
19          interested in gawking or observing what's going on.

20      Q.     Right. And then the law enforcement officers who  
21          are not the police liaison, are they instructed to  
22          refer individuals who are trying to access the  
23          encampment to support to the police liaison?

24      A.     Yes. That's right.

25      Q.     Okay. And going back again specifically to the

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1           third eviction on -- the early February eviction.

2 A.       (Witness nods head.)

3 Q.       Was there a -- any documentation that happened of  
4           items that remained in the encampment after the  
5           humans had been removed?

6 A.       No, not to my knowledge. No documentation was  
7           crafted or -- or reflected.

8 Q.       How about any items of any apparent value that were  
9           specifically noted or kept aside?

10 A.       Not that I'm aware of, no.

11 Q.       And the approximate volume of items destroyed at  
12           the end of the day?

13 A.       Yeah, that I couldn't attest to. I wasn't there to  
14           observe that. But I do know that there is  
15           documentation of the volumes of -- of waste and  
16           waste materials that were collected and discarded.

17           Public Works would have that information.

18 Q.       Okay. Thank you.

19           And at that third location, was there any  
20           advanced checks by the working group of the  
21           availability of shelter beds and services prior to  
22           the eviction?

23 A.       Yes. Yes. That happens on an ongoing basis, and  
24           shelter availability was relatively unchanged from  
25           the closure just before a few days before.

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1 Q. So there was -- there was a check, and there was a  
2 confirmation that there was enough beds for the  
3 estimated number of residents?

4 A. Yes. That's right.

5 Q. And I think -- I think we're ready to move on to  
6 the -- well, the next eviction was the fire. So  
7 that wasn't -- I'm going to -- I'm going to skip  
8 that encampment because that wasn't an eviction.  
9 That was the fire.

10 But I -- I'm going to ask you some questions  
11 now that are specific to the July 25th eviction of  
12 the -- the fifth Nenookaasi iteration on  
13 2839 14th Avenue South. So that was the location  
14 that people moved to after the fire. We could --  
15 we could call it Nenookaasi five. Does that make  
16 sense?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And was there any decision-making basis for  
19 that eviction?

20 A. If I recall, that one was in a residential area  
21 with vulnerable adults next door and those that  
22 were in recovery adjacent to the property.

23 So that created just general public health  
24 issues and more concentrated health issues for  
25 those specific individuals that had either moved

1 out of unsheltered homelessness into something a  
2 little bit more supportive and stable. They were  
3 trying not to go back.

4 There were a few individuals who were -- who  
5 relapsed as -- as a result of the presence of the  
6 encampment and the presence of -- of drug use and  
7 drug dealing that was happening either right there  
8 on the property or immediately outside of -- of  
9 that property. In addition to general safety  
10 concerns.

11 Q. And did you confirm prior to that decision to evict  
12 that there was an available number of shelter beds  
13 that matched the approximate number of residents at  
14 the encampment?

15 A. Yes, we did.

16 Q. Who was present on behalf of the City at that  
17 eviction?

18 A. On behalf of the City, I was present; Erik Hansen,  
19 the Community Planning and Economic Development  
20 Director, was present; Elfric Porte, the Housing  
21 Policy and Development Director; David Herberholz,  
22 the Solid Waste and Recycling Director; Nick  
23 Gerold, general foreman; and then a number of  
24 individuals from Minneapolis Police Department were  
25 present.

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1 Q. And generally speaking, the number of individuals  
2 from the police department, that's up to the  
3 discretion of the -- the representative of the  
4 police department who's in your working group?

5 A. Correct. It's also dependent on what's the  
6 situation at the site, where is it in relation  
7 geographically? So what's the overall area of  
8 need?

9 Q. And was notice provided to those -- the residents  
10 of the fifth site prior to that eviction?

11 A. Yes, notice was provided.

12 Q. How -- how was that -- or how far in advance? I  
13 guess I'll start there.

14 A. I'm hesitating only because I'm -- I'm -- I can't  
15 remember if this specific site was three days or  
16 five days, but it was at least three days in  
17 advance.

18 Q. And how was that notice given?

19 A. Posted signage, plus outreach. Plus the  
20 Minneapolis police liaisons, when they go on-site,  
21 they do verbally give notice that the encampment is  
22 closing. And one thing to keep in mind, the  
23 sign -- the property itself was fenced. It was  
24 signed. It was noticed.

25 So the only thing that we're -- we're really

1 talking about right now is the date of the closure.  
2 Because everybody has had notice that they were  
3 illegally trespassing when cutting through the  
4 fence and entering.

5 Q. Right. So as far as the -- not counting the  
6 general "No Trespassing" signs, but with reference  
7 to the posted sign you're referencing, that had a  
8 specific closure date on it?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And when the police liaison enters, that person is  
11 referencing the specific closure date?

12 A. Yes. That's right.

13 Q. Is that true -- kind of zooming back out and  
14 looking at other Nenookaasi evictions, is that  
15 across-the-board true that the -- the eviction sign  
16 has the date on it?

17 A. Typically it does, yes. Unless there's something  
18 imminent, like an immediate security threat. In  
19 which case, we're not able to post the date, post  
20 the time, might not even be able to give that  
21 advance notice. It all depends on what's the  
22 situation at the site.

23 Q. So looking at the -- looking at the five sites, the  
24 fourth site was burned, so that's irrelevant to  
25 this question --

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1 A. (Witness nods head.) Yeah.

2 Q. -- and the third site had the urgency condition  
3 and --

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. -- wasn't noticed.

6 The first, second, and fifth, there was a date  
7 posted in advance?

8 A. Correct. That's right.

9 Q. Okay. Zooming back into this fifth eviction.

10 At the roll call, was there instructions with  
11 regards to who could enter the perimeter?

12 A. With the fifth -- fifth one, there were  
13 instructions on who could enter. Volunteers,  
14 whether they could enter or not, which outreach  
15 organizations were scheduled or planning to come  
16 out to support.

17 So a similar perimeter was set up. Similar  
18 communication from those police officers that were  
19 managing the perimeter to the Homeless Response  
20 liaison on the police department so that that  
21 individual could make the determination of "Yes,  
22 allow them in"; "No, not to allow them in," or  
23 those kinds of determinations.

24 Q. It's helpful for me to see this -- kind of the  
25 whole pattern and then talk about anomalies.

1                   You're saying that the general protocol with  
2                   the police liaison evaluating "Is this an agitator  
3                   or is this somebody trying to be helpful" applied  
4                   also applied at the -- at the fifth eviction?

5     A.     Yes.

6     Q.     All right. And was that deviated from -- was that  
7                   general policy deviated from at any of the other  
8                   evictions?

9     A.     No, not to my knowledge.

10    Q.     Okay. And I'm -- I'm sorry if I already asked you  
11                   this. Was there a time limit placed on the fifth  
12                   eviction of --

13    A.     No.

14    Q.     -- how much time residents had? No. Okay.

15    A.     No, no time limit. As long as they're making  
16                   progress, we'll allow them to make as many trips as  
17                   possible and provide whatever support is needed.

18    Q.     Okay. And were service providers given notice of  
19                   the July 25th eviction?

20    A.     Yes, they were.

21    Q.     Were service providers present on the site?

22    A.     Yes.

23    Q.     And were residents made aware that service  
24                   providers were there available to help them?

25    A.     Yes, they were.

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1 Q. How was that communicated?

2 A. So communication from the City to the service  
3 providers was through Hennepin County to identify  
4 which ones would -- excuse me -- which ones would  
5 be present.

6 And then once we know which one was going to  
7 be present, the Homeless Response Team would go out  
8 and communicate and reinforce, "Yep, closure is  
9 happening," offers services, offers storage, advise  
10 that Street Outreach Team or whomever is going to  
11 be here on -- on the day of closure. "So if you  
12 have any last-minute questions and whatnot, the" --  
13 "this is an opportunity."

14 And then the outreach team would go out in  
15 advance as well the day of closure to reemphasize  
16 that same point. "We're here. We're here to help.  
17 Closure is coming. Let us know" -- "let's" --  
18 "let's figure out how to get you into housing, get  
19 you into shelter, get you integrated into the  
20 Coordinated Entry System."

21 Q. At the July 25th eviction, was there any  
22 documentation of belongings that were left behind  
23 after the humans were removed at the end of the  
24 day?

25 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

1 Q. Was there any items that were categorized as  
2 valuable or potentially stolen that were set aside?

3 A. I don't recall any from that location.

4 Q. So, really, the one instance you recall of  
5 something being set aside was that backpack that  
6 one time at the first eviction?

7 A. The backpack at the first closure, and then I  
8 recall a collection of propane tanks from the first  
9 and second. Not the third. Certainly not the  
10 fourth. I don't recall any from the fifth in -- in  
11 the middle of summer.

12 Q. Okay. And any approximate volume of things  
13 destroyed at the end of the fifth eviction?

14 A. Approximately two to three dump trucks is what I  
15 recall seeing.

16 Q. Generally speaking, what happens to the yurts at  
17 Nenookaasi evictions?

18 A. Generally, those get taken down. So the residents  
19 of the encampment will take those down. They might  
20 bring in volunteers. Generally, they -- they will  
21 take them down themselves and transport them off of  
22 the property. We, as a city, don't want to take  
23 them. They're nicely con- -- constructed.

24 Q. Were there situations at Nenookaasi evictions where  
25 yurts aren't removed from the property?

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1 A. I don't recall an instance where they were not  
2 removed by the residents of the encampment.

3 MS. KELLEY: And I think I -- again, I  
4 want to check in and see how everyone is doing.

5 Do we need a break? Are we good? Do --  
6 does anyone . . .

7 MS. MCQUITTY: Can we maybe just take  
8 like --

9 MS. ENSLIN: Ten minutes?

10 MS. MCQUITTY: -- five for the --

11 MS. KELLEY: Five?

12 MS. MCQUITTY: -- bathroom?

13 MS. ENSLIN: (Attorney nods head.)

14 MS. KELLEY: Yeah.

15 Melissa, does that work for you to take  
16 a --

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Yeah. That's fine.

18 MS. KELLEY: -- a ten-minute bathroom  
19 break?

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Yeah.

21 MS. KELLEY: Okay.

22 THE WITNESS: All right.

23 MS. KELLEY: Let's do that. So we'll be  
24 back at --

25 THE WITNESS: 2:07.

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1 MS. KELLEY: -- 2:07.

2 (Recess from 1:58 p.m. to 2:07 p.m.)

3 BY MS. KELLEY:

4 Q. When you were at any of these evictions, did you  
5 observe anybody with -- any encampment resident  
6 with physical disabilities or mobility issues?7 A. If I recall from the first Nenookaasi encampment at  
8 2313 13th Avenue, I do recall seeing someone in a  
9 wheelchair.10 Q. And do you know how -- how that was addressed with  
11 regards to their -- moving them out of the  
12 encampment?13 A. I did not see them -- oh, sorry. Your question is  
14 specific to the encampment closure; correct?

15 Q. Correct.

16 A. Oh, okay. I did not see them present at the  
17 encampment closure. I saw them earlier on because  
18 the encampment was present for multiple months. So  
19 I saw them when I visited in October, but I did not  
20 see them at the closure in January.21 Q. Okay. At these roll calls, is there any  
22 conversation about how to address residents'  
23 physical and/or mental or intellectual  
24 disabilities?

25 A. At roll call, I do not recall those conversations.

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1       We would have those during the unsheltered working  
2       group meetings in advance of deciding on closure.

3       Q.     Would that be a part of any of the briefing  
4            materials or the PowerPoint?

5       A.     If we encountered, then it would have appeared. We  
6            didn't -- we didn't encounter that for the day of  
7            closure.

8       Q.     You didn't encounter what? Sorry.

9       A.     Sorry. I'm not being very clear.

10           So while we encountered individuals who might  
11           have presented with disabilities prior to making  
12           the decision to closure, those individuals that we  
13           identified were not present when we moved forward  
14           with closure. They'd already either moved into  
15           housing or they -- they moved into a -- a different  
16           space. So we --

17       Q.     Okay.

18       A.     If -- you know, hypothetically speaking, if they  
19           were still present, then we would certainly make  
20           sure that as part of our preparation materials,  
21           that there were clear guidelines on how to approach  
22           these specific individuals who would be present,  
23           they can identify them and -- and how to navigate  
24           so that we can help them transition out of the  
25           space.

1 Q. Would these roll call meetings be captured on law  
2 enforcement body-worn camera?

3 A. I'm not aware that body-worn cameras would be  
4 active during roll call. I -- I'm not sure how  
5 those processes and procedures work specifically  
6 for the police department to be able to articulate  
7 that.

8 Q. Would body-worn camera be activated during  
9 evictions?

10 A. Body-worn cameras are certainly active during  
11 encampment closures, yes.

12 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any complaints lodged with  
13 the City in response to Camp Nenookaasi evictions?

14 A. With respect to the complaints, are you referring  
15 to complaints from the residents of the encampment  
16 to the City or other complaints about the  
17 encampment to the City?

18 Q. Complaints -- not -- not complaints about the  
19 unhoused people themselves but complaints filed  
20 either by unhoused people or those in support of  
21 them about the conduct of the evictions.

22 A. I am aware of -- I received a -- a multitude of  
23 form emails and phone calls and text messages from  
24 around the country about closure of Camp  
25 Nenookaasi.

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1 Q. And how -- how were those complaints handled?

2 A. First, evaluating the substance of the complaint  
3 and the nature of them. Some of them call on the  
4 Mayor's policies and how they're inhumane, about  
5 the closure themselves with incorrect dates and  
6 information. I still get them today, even though  
7 there is no set date or timetable for any closures,  
8 referring back to the original Nenookaasi site at  
9 2313 13th Ave- -- 13th Avenue. So some of it, I  
10 have to take with a grain of salt because it's a  
11 form letter.

12 Q. Are there informal complaints or conversations that  
13 you've had with people that are objecting to or  
14 upset with the manner in which Nenookaasi evictions  
15 are conducted?

16 A. Again, from the perspective of individuals who are  
17 experiencing homelessness or supportive of the  
18 Nenookaasi encampment complaining to the City? I  
19 just want to make sure that we're still --

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. -- on the same -- okay.

22 Q. Same -- same parameters. Thank you for clarifying.

23 A. Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.

24 Yes, I am aware of complaints about, you know,  
25 people either verbally sharing their -- their

1 criticism or their complaints with the City's  
2 response to unsheltered homelessness.

3 Q. Do people come to the working group with these  
4 concerns?

5 A. Yeah, those of us who receive these different  
6 concerns, we certainly present that into the  
7 working group to identify here's the volume, here's  
8 the nature, here's some of the themes that have  
9 emerged from the various elements of information or  
10 the data sources that we've received.

11 Q. And are there intern- -- like, City employees  
12 themselves who expressed these concerns to you or  
13 the working group?

14 A. There have been City employees that have expressed  
15 concerns, yes.

16 Q. Do you have a ballpark of how many employees that  
17 is?

18 A. Three that I can recall.

19 Q. Who were those three?

20 A. Daniel LaCroix, Narin Sihavong, and I'm trying to  
21 remember -- I can picture his -- picture the face  
22 of the -- the third person, but I can't recall the  
23 name of them. One works in Regulatory Services,  
24 the second in Community Planning and Economic  
25 Development. There was a third from Public Works.

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1 I -- I can't recall his name.

2 Q. And were the substance of each of these complaints  
3 substantively similar or different?

4 A. With respect to the complaint from -- substantively  
5 similar with slight deviation in a couple of  
6 different areas. I can cover those if you like.

7 Q. Sure. If you wouldn't mind just summarizing, that  
8 would be great.

9 A. Sure.

10 Q. Thanks.

11 A. Sure. With the case of Mr. LaCroix, who is himself  
12 Native American, it was about inflicting additional  
13 harm to Native people who have historically  
14 experienced generational traumas and trying to find  
15 ways to provide a response that's culturally  
16 relevant and specific that --

17 Q. How was that -- how was that complaint addressed?

18 A. I offered to sit down with him and show him how we  
19 respond and the different ways that we are working  
20 to address all these different concerns and how  
21 we're trying to find pathways for individuals to  
22 exercise their agency. So he appreciated having  
23 that information and -- and receiving it.

24 Q. And the next individual?

25 A. For Mr. Sihavong, it was about the fact that we're

1 closing encampments, period. And I think some of  
2 that was with respect to this individual manages  
3 the contracts for the property management company  
4 within Community Planning and Economic Development.

5 So they would have to instruct the contractor  
6 to go in, take care of the property, to mend the  
7 fencing, to put up the -- the signage. So I think  
8 there was some sort of a conflict between how to  
9 approach that work and the work itself.

10 Q. And how was -- how was that complaint addressed?

11 A. Just trying to reiterate that encampments aren't --  
12 aren't legal. We can't allow them to happen. If  
13 we need to shift the workload or shift the  
14 responsibility elsewhere, you know, that -- that's  
15 a different conversation. But this is part of the  
16 work as the person that's responsible and managing  
17 this contract.

18 But it was mostly focused on the contract and  
19 the -- the consternation of having to tell the  
20 contractor to go out and do this unenviable task.

21 Q. Has anybody complained to the City about the  
22 unavailability or inaccessibility of storage during  
23 evictions?

24 A. We have received that complaint in person during  
25 the encampment closure of -- more of why do we not

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1 offer storage? Why do -- "why is the Homeless  
2 Response Team not present with storage bins  
3 offering storage on the day of the closure?"

4 And the response there is, you know, we were  
5 offering these services leading up to the closure  
6 and making it clear that it's not going to be  
7 available on the day of closure, and that we still  
8 are going to move forward. This has to -- has to  
9 happen. So take advantage of them while they're  
10 offered.

11 But on the day of, it's focused on  
12 demobilizing and -- and moving off of the property.

13 Q. Do you remember receiving any complaints from a  
14 City employee named Chelsea McFarren?

15 A. I remember receiving emails from Chelsea McFarren.  
16 At -- she was not a City employee, though, at the  
17 time that we received it. I think she -- she was  
18 prior but not -- not when I received additional  
19 complaints later.

20 Q. Additional complaints beyond what?

21 A. I'm sorry? Could you repeat that?

22 Q. Sure. You said you received additional complaints  
23 later. I'm wondering if there was initial  
24 complaints.

25 A. No. Sorry. Sorry. I didn't. Not while she was

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1       an employee of the City. It was sometime after --  
2       after she separated from the City that I  
3       received -- I was forwarded an email, but it wasn't  
4       directly to me. It was to somebody else, and it --  
5       it routed over to me eventually.

6       Q.     Do you remember the substance of Ms. McFarren's  
7       complaints?

8       A.     I don't recall off the top of my head the -- the  
9       specific nature. I'll see if I can summarize what  
10      I interpret to be the nature of -- of the  
11      complaint. I'm struggling. I remember seeing it.  
12      I -- I'm struggling to remember the specificity of  
13      it.

14      Q.     Do you remember if she was an employee at the time  
15      that she drafted the email, sent it? I guess I  
16      don't know how long it was sitting in her drafts.  
17      But you're saying that she was no longer an  
18      employee at the time you read the email. Was she  
19      an employee at the time that she wrote the email?

20      A.     So Ms. McFarren and I were like two ships passing  
21      in the night. I started within Regulatory Services  
22      on August 1, 2022, which seemed to align with her  
23      last day with the City. So I received her email --  
24      I can't recall if it was late in 2023 or if it was  
25      earlier in 2024. It was quite a significant time

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1 difference from when she left the City to when I  
2 received that specific email -- or when she drafted  
3 that email.

4 Q. Do you know if her concerns with the encampment  
5 closures was part of the reason for the separation?

6 A. I couldn't speculate on why she separated from the  
7 City.

8 Q. And you -- you mentioned receiving verbal  
9 complaints in person about the provision of storage  
10 at Nenookaasi evictions.

11 Were you aware of other complaints relayed in  
12 person at evictions regarding shelter bed  
13 availability?

14 A. The only complaints I recall receiving about  
15 shelter bed availability is about units staying  
16 together. So family --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- units staying together when legally they're not  
19 family members.

20 Q. Just to be sure I'm understanding you, people were  
21 complaining that they couldn't access a shelter  
22 because their family unit couldn't stay together?

23 A. Yes. That's correct. Under the definitions of  
24 family shelter, this unit, this cohort of  
25 individuals that might identify as a family,

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1           legally are not family. So they would not be able  
2           to go into family shelter together --

3       Q.     Okay.

4       A.     -- because legally they were not family.

5       Q.     And same question about your -- your awareness of  
6           people's complaints verbally at evictions with  
7           regards to notice given to residents or service  
8           providers of -- of that eviction.

9       A.     I loosely recall receiving some complaints from  
10          individuals about not having notice or not having  
11          adequate notice.

12           Again, we point back to the fence was already  
13          up. There was signage on the fence. There was  
14          signage inside the property. That is the initial  
15          benchmark for notice. And then anything above and  
16          beyond that, it's posted, outreach advises when  
17          it's closing. The poli- -- Minneapolis Police  
18          Department liaisons provide notice. So there's  
19          multiple layers of notice that people will receive  
20          before the closure.

21       Q.     Getting down to the end here. Thank you so much  
22          for -- for bearing with us and the -- the attention  
23          to detail you're providing.

24           How -- how many housed neighbors, I'll call  
25          them -- meaning people who live in a house or an

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1 apartment near an encampment.

2 How many housed neighbors of Nenookaasi did  
3 the City talk to about -- about Nenookaasi?

4 A. That's difficult to quantify. We have had a number  
5 of residential neighbors, as well as commercial and  
6 nonprofit neighbors, just recognizing that the  
7 various iterations of Camp Nenookaasi have emerged  
8 in a variety of different settings.

9 The very first one was in a partial  
10 residential and commercial space where the  
11 Indigenous Peoples Task Force was nearby, In- --  
12 Indigenous Health Board, and a variety of different  
13 agencies were represented there.

14 So we did receive complaints and did engage  
15 with those specific residents, if you will, in --  
16 within the community as well as residential  
17 neighbors that were concerned for their -- for the  
18 health, for the viability, a variety of different  
19 things.

20 But, yes, throughout we have been in contact.  
21 "We" being a va- -- variety of representation from  
22 the City, whether it's myself, whether it's  
23 Community Planning and Economic Development,  
24 Minneapolis Police Department through the liaisons  
25 or even the 3rd Precinct representatives or Crime

1 Prevention Specialists. A variety of different  
2 individuals have connected with housed residents.

3 Q. And is that -- is that done through those  
4 individuals reaching out to the City or the City  
5 going door -- going door to door in the  
6 neighborhood or both? How's that done?

7 A. So a lot of the engagement is more of those  
8 individual entities or residents connecting with  
9 the City, looking for some sort of an action, or it  
10 could be through community meetings or safety  
11 neighborhood type of meetings that are called in  
12 response to an event or an emergent safety concern.

13 Q. Do you know the -- do you remember any of the --  
14 what you called commercial neighbors, who those  
15 groups were that -- that reached out to the City  
16 with concerns?

17 A. The Indigenous Peoples Task Force and the Indian  
18 Health Board, the American Indian Community  
19 Development Center, the Metropolitan Urban Indian  
20 Directors. They each reached out with respect to  
21 the first iteration of Nenookaasi.

22 Q. Did you all do any -- any door knocking at all for  
23 housed residents in neighborhoods around  
24 Nenookaasi?

25 A. No, not to my knowledge.

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1 Q. Okay. So the outreach is -- is people reaching out  
2 to you?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And are these -- are these complaints and  
5 conversations documented and stored anywhere?

6 A. If they submitted emails or 311 -- Minneapolis 311  
7 service requests, they would be documented there.  
8 Otherwise, phone calls may not be documented unless  
9 there was a follow-up by email.

10 Q. Do you recall any of these -- let's say -- let's  
11 call them non-Nenookaasi residents. So whether  
12 that's individuals, nonprofits or commercial  
13 neighbors, do any of these neighbors have neutral  
14 or positive feelings about the encampment that  
15 you've heard from?

16 A. No, they do not.

17 Q. Okay. How many requests for emergency services  
18 were attributed to the Nenookaasi locations?

19 MS. ENSLIN: I'm just going to object to  
20 the extent that calls for data that would call for  
21 speculation.

22 But you can answer if you know.

23 A. I can recall three or four separate events where  
24 emergency services were -- were called or summoned  
25 in some capacity.

1 BY MS. KELLEY:

2 Q. Just three or four events -- or, I guess --

3 A. Just what I recall.

4 Q. That you -- okay.

5 A. And I -- I'm -- right, and I'm -- I'm loosely  
6 familiar with our 911 system. I don't have access  
7 to the data to be able to look at all of that  
8 information, but trust that any emergent issues  
9 that would -- would come up, would come up through  
10 our Minneapolis police liaisons or -- or others on  
11 that front.

12 Q. When you're looking at the -- the number of 911 or  
13 311 calls responsive to an encampment, is there a  
14 way that you -- that you differentiate whether  
15 those calls are coming about encampment residents  
16 or from encampment residents?

17 A. I think the only way I can respond to that is a  
18 Priority 1 call is a Priority 1 call. Whether it's  
19 about a resident in the encampment or it's  
20 triggered by a person within the encampment, it's  
21 still a Priority 1, and the first responsibility is  
22 to address that im- -- immediate need to preserve  
23 public health, public safety, preserve that life  
24 safety.

25 Q. So I guess to give an example, if -- if a resident

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1       of an encampment were to call 311 to try to talk to  
2       a Homeless Response Team person, that -- that data  
3       would show up the same as if a housed neighbor was  
4       calling to complain about a needle on the ground?

5       A.     Essentially, yes, they would go to different areas  
6       of the city, but yes.

7       Q.     Is there a -- a baseline that you're comparing  
8       the -- when you say there is this many 911 or 311  
9       calls responsive to an encampment and you look at  
10      that as a factor justifying eviction or  
11      incentivizing eviction, is that compared to any  
12      baseline data, or are 311 and 911 calls in the area  
13      not responsive to that specific encampment?

14      A.     What I can, again, say generally is that we gather  
15      this data -- "this data" being 311 calls and 911  
16      calls. We gather that information ongoing.

17                  And when an encampment emerges in a specific  
18      area, our crime analysts or 311 analysts are able  
19      to see the deviation in call activity, call  
20      volumes, call types not only relative to the  
21      previous period -- "period" being week, two weeks,  
22      month -- but also relative to the same time  
23      previous year.

24                  So that way they can detect, Is what is  
25      currently being experienced an anomaly? Is it on

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1 par with where we were at this point last year,  
2 where we would see a similar spike? Or is it  
3 something that is -- can be attributable to the  
4 emergence and presence of an encampment and others  
5 that might seek to utilize the cover of the  
6 encampment to engage in other illicit behaviors?

7 Q. Is there a way to differentiate between calls that  
8 are -- I guess, how do you -- how do you verify  
9 that a call is about a resident as opposed to a  
10 call being about, say, somebody who doesn't live  
11 there but is, like, preying upon a vulnerable  
12 population?

13 A. So if I understand the question, I think the  
14 response there is that we have to look at what --  
15 what's the behavior that's taking place, whether  
16 it's a resident or it's somebody that's preying on  
17 a resident that is there in the community.

18 There needs to be a -- an equal measured  
19 response to whatever that complaint is to address  
20 the behavior and de-escalate the situation or -- or  
21 resolve whatever the conflict is.

22 Q. In terms of tracking data about the number of 311  
23 or 911 calls that are about behaviors of encampment  
24 residents, is there a way to verify that the person  
25 engaging in the complained-of behavior is a

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1           resident as opposed to an unhoused person who  
2           doesn't live at the encampment or somebody who  
3           isn't actually unhoused?

4       A.    Yeah, I don't know that there is a meaningful way  
5           to bifurcate that information, not until somebody  
6           responds to the specific complaint and -- and gets  
7           to the root cause of what's happening.

8                   But I don't know what that looks like from  
9           a -- an analytical perspective on the back end  
10           after conducting that initial inspection and  
11           investigation.

12     Q.     As far as the data that -- that the working group  
13           is using to make eviction decisions, you don't make  
14           those distinctions?

15     A.     We do not make that level of distinction --

16     Q.     Okay.

17     A.     -- because even if it's somebody from the outside  
18           that is agitating the situation or preying upon  
19           individuals at the encampment, there is no real  
20           distinguishable way to address the situation with  
21           that outside actor without addressing the  
22           encampment, at least not presently.

23     Q.     Okay. Do you have baseline data about the general  
24           presence of discarded needles in East Phillips?

25     A.     So is the question with respect to the volume of

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1           discarded needles in East Phillips?

2 Q.       Right.

3 A.       I do not. What I can share is that through the  
4           Minneapolis Department of Health, we do have a  
5           contract with a third party responsible for needle  
6           collection and pickup in -- at least in public  
7           spaces, public right-of-way, publicly owned  
8           parcels. That does not extend into private areas,  
9           private parcels.

10           However, this third party does provide  
11           instruction and provide buckets and materials to  
12           private property owners -- owners so that they can  
13           collect the needles themselves, and then the third  
14           party will collect the buckets.

15           I don't know if they weigh them, how they --  
16           how they evaluate or how -- what that looks like in  
17           terms of volume or number of discarded syringes.  
18           Public Works also, I believe, gathers up some level  
19           of data.

20 Q.       Okay.

21 A.       We'd have to take a look at that.

22 Q.       Do you -- did you receive air pollution complaints  
23           about Nenookaasi?

24 A.       Yes, we did.

25 Q.       And how were those -- would you say that that --

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1 how does that number compare to the air pollution  
2 complaints the City receives about, for example,  
3 Smith Foundry or Interstate 94?

4 A. I can't really speculate on the complaints for  
5 Smith Foundry or I-94 because those would reside  
6 within our Environmental Health system, not so much  
7 within our unsheltered response.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So I can't really compare the two or -- yeah.

10 Q. And then the City made some -- some representations  
11 in earlier filings about a dead baby at the first  
12 Nenookaasi encampment. Just wondering if that  
13 information was ever verified.

14 A. Yes, that was verified. There was a -- if I  
15 recall, someone gave birth to a stillborn child at  
16 the encampment.

17 Q. And how -- how did you learn of that?

18 A. I learned of it from the Indigenous Peoples Task  
19 Force because this -- or an individual went to the  
20 Indigenous Peoples Task Force, knocked on the door  
21 to advise that there was an unresponsive person,  
22 who was bleeding profusely, who was in the  
23 encampment.

24 So when the Indigenous Peoples Task Force went  
25 and -- showed up, that's what they discovered. And

1           then one of the many phone calls was to the City  
2           where they relayed that information.

3   Q.     But you were aware the whole time that this was a  
4           stillborn, not a child who had been at one point  
5           alive and then deceased?

6   A.     I wasn't aware at that moment where it was reported  
7           to us, but later discovered it was -- it was a  
8           stillborn child.

9   Q.     Okay. Is there a -- a metric for deciding when to  
10          provide porta-potties to an encampment?

11   A.     So historically the City has not provided  
12          porta-potties. There was a brief period when there  
13          was an eviction moratorium in place and encampments  
14          were permitted in Minneapolis Park and Recreation  
15          Board property that porta-potties were offered at  
16          that point, and then that went away when the  
17          eviction moratorium was lifted and encampments were  
18          no longer authorized at Park Board properties.

19           We did not bring back the concept of  
20          porta-potties until 2023, where those were provided  
21          in conjunction with a closure date.

22   Q.     Okay. And what's the -- what's the basis or  
23          reasoning behind deciding to provide a porta-potty?

24   A.     The primary focus is on community livability,  
25          public health. Those two factors. Waste removal

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1       is -- it's -- you know, people will void wherever  
2       they need to void. They -- it's -- it's a natural  
3       part of human existence, and they need someplace to  
4       be able to void and should have some level of  
5       dignity to do so without it being in the neighbor's  
6       property or utilizing facilities that are not  
7       intended for that purpose.

8 Q.      Do you find that providing and servicing  
9       porta-potties does increase the -- the public  
10      health outcomes of that encampment?

11 A.     It's certainly one of the different factors that  
12      contributes to improved public health. You know,  
13      also on the -- on the foundation that no human  
14      should live in an encampment because it is not a  
15      safe or healthy environment to live in, that it  
16      falls short of the minimum housing standard that  
17      the City has set.

18 Q.     Were -- were porta-potties provided to each of  
19      the -- the five Nenookaasis?

20 A.     Porta-potties were offered to one, two, four, and  
21      five. Three was only there for a period of a few  
22      days. I don't recall that we provided  
23      porta-potties in the few days that they were there.

24 Q.     And are they serviced on any kind of schedule?

25 A.     They are. We have had a few different vendors

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1 operate in this space. The schedule was a little  
2 bit different from vendor to vendor.

3 The vendor at the time for Nenookaasi one,  
4 two, four -- one, two, and four serviced six days  
5 per week. It was a different vendor, if I recall,  
6 for Nenookaasi five, and those were serviced five  
7 days per week.

8 Q. Do you happen to remember the names of either of  
9 those vendors?

10 A. I remember an acronym, SAS.

11 Q. Was that for the first -- one, two, and --

12 A. For the -- correct.

13 Q. Do you remember an acronym for the second?

14 A. The second one is Wruck Sanitation, W-r-u-c-k.

15 Q. Okay. What ordinances are encampment residents  
16 violating typically, aside from the --

17 MS. ENSLIN: I'm going to -- sorry to  
18 interrupt you. I thought you were done.

19 I was going to say -- put an objection in  
20 to the extent it calls for a legal conclusion.

21 MS. KELLEY: Okay.

22 THE WITNESS: Do you want me to --

23 MS. ENSLIN: You can answer.

24 A. Yeah, so on the surface, Minneapolis Code of  
25 Ordinances 244.60, which for all intents and

1       purposes states that erecting a structure -- a  
2       temporary structure for the purpose of human  
3       habitation is illegal, and it does not conform to  
4       the minimum -- minimum housing and property  
5       maintenance standard. It also violates zoning  
6       ordinance.

7       BY MS. KELLEY:

8       Q.      I think -- if you just have any of the -- the  
9           titles or numbers of the statutes off the top of  
10          your head.

11                   MS. ENSLIN: Objection. Calls for a  
12          legal conclusion.

13       A.      I do not.

14       BY MS. KELLEY:

15       Q.      Okay. Going through -- I guess, are these -- are  
16          the -- are the violations of ordinances documented  
17          anywhere? What -- what the residents are  
18          violating, is that -- is that documented within the  
19          city?

20       A.      Are you asking if the ordinances are documented  
21          within the City or --

22       Q.      Sorry. That -- that's --

23       A.      -- the violations for each --

24       Q.      -- a weirdly phrased question.

25                   When a -- when a Nenookaasi resident or a

1 group of residents is violating a City ordinance,  
2 is there a process by which the City documents,  
3 "Hey, this person is violating this ordinance," or  
4 "This encampment is violating this ordinance"? Is  
5 that documented, and do those documents live  
6 anywhere?

7 A. Well, the notice of violation is essentially posted  
8 at -- at every site. So as somebody enters,  
9 they're essentially acknowledging that they're  
10 violating. The -- we don't take individuals' names  
11 because the focus is not on prosecuting or  
12 otherwise citing those individuals. The focus is  
13 on the people and helping them access their agency  
14 so that they can move into supportive stable  
15 housing. We don't want to create a barrier for  
16 that.

17 So, no, we do not provide any sort of a  
18 citation or other documentation that indicates to  
19 that individual, "You are in violation of all of  
20 these different codes of ordinance personally."

21 Q. Okay. So there's no -- there's no other, really,  
22 way that the City addresses residents being in  
23 violation of City ordinances aside from evictions?

24 A. When Homeless Response personnel and Minneapolis  
25 police personnel and Crime Prevention Specialists

1 go on-site to engage with these individuals at  
2 encampments, they're advised that they're in  
3 violation, that the encampment is illegal, it has  
4 to close, and trying to convince them that they  
5 need to move on while also providing access to  
6 services.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But we --

9 Q. But they're not -- they're not given, like, tickets  
10 or citations or anything?

11 A. No, not at all. Not at all.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yeah, we recognize that having citations or  
14 warrants or any of those different types of  
15 legal -- what would you call it? You know, any --  
16 any -- having any of those different kinds of  
17 elements on your record can also present a barrier  
18 to get into shelter. So we -- we want to -- we  
19 don't want to add to barriers for people to get  
20 into shelter. We want to decrease barriers for  
21 people to get into shelter.

22 Q. Okay. Just thinking about Nenookaasi one through  
23 five, are all of those properties owned by CPED or  
24 managed by CPED?

25 A. Yes, I believe they are all managed by CPED.

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1 Q. And so it would be -- CPED would be the -- the  
2 agency that decides how those properties get used?

3 A. Yes. That's right.

4 Q. And I know Nenookaasi one is under -- is under some  
5 contract for an anticipated future use; right?  
6 What is -- what's going in at Nenookaasi one?

7 A. So Nenookaasi one was actually transferred to the  
8 Indigenous Peoples Task Force. That's been a  
9 project that's been underway for about 14 years.  
10 And they plan on building a -- a healing center, an  
11 education center, have a community space. They're  
12 going to transfer their offices into that space  
13 and -- let's see. What else were they going to do?  
14 Health services. They're going to provide health  
15 services there as well.

16 Q. Okay. Any similar plans or contracts or agreements  
17 for future uses of the Nenookaasi two through five?

18 A. I believe number two is earmarked for housing  
19 development, for deeply affordable housing. I  
20 don't know who the -- the potential developer is  
21 for that, but it's -- it's somewhere in the  
22 pipeline of coming to fruition. And essentially,  
23 all of these different parcels are going to be used  
24 for low to -- or affordable to deeply affordable  
25 housing.

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1 Q. What -- what do you mean "deeply affordable"?

2 A. So affordable housing is considered to be

3 60 percent or lower of the annual median income for

4 the area as set by Met Council. Deeply affordable

5 would be 30 percent or less.

6 Q. Okay. So Nenookaasis two through five are all

7 somewhere in the trajectory of being earmarked for

8 housing development?

9 A. Yes. That's right.

10 Q. And you mentioned earlier a -- a -- two meetings.

11 One that you were at and one you weren't with

12 Nicole Mason.

13 Has the City or the working group had other

14 meetings specifically with Nenookaasi residents?

15 A. Not specifically. What I can say is that on the

16 day of encampment closures where Nicole Mason is

17 present, she will engage with either myself or with

18 Erik Hansen, the Director of Community Planning and

19 Economic Development.

20 Q. Do you have other -- other meetings as a working

21 group where you invite unhoused people generally to

22 come to these meetings?

23 A. Not presently. That is something that I am working

24 on to invite individuals with lived experience to

25 form almost an advisory group to inform on our

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1 response to make sure that how we are responding as  
2 a city, as an organization, takes into  
3 consideration those different attributes from  
4 individuals with lived experience to help us on the  
5 procedural side as well as where we could  
6 potentially spend funding in the future.

7 Q. Do you -- do you remember the norovirus outbreak?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. Would you mind just telling me how the City learned  
10 of that and what happened?

11 A. So I learned of it from our Deputy Commissioner of  
12 Health, Heidi Ritchie, who received information.  
13 I -- I'm not positive on where she received the  
14 information from, if it was specifically from  
15 Minnesota Department of Health or if it was through  
16 Hennepin Health.

17 But in any event, she received information and  
18 then deployed her team to go to the site, to do an  
19 evaluation, and do some initial health screening  
20 and assessment of individuals on -- on -- at  
21 Nenookaasi two.

22 Q. And did your -- did your office or anybody verify  
23 the reports that this was indeed norovirus?

24 A. The Minneapolis Department of Health through their  
25 epidemi- -- epi- -- epidemiological team, they did

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1           conduct some treatings to verify that it was the  
2           norovirus.

3       Q.     What safety and/or treatment measures were adopted  
4           in response to the outbreak?

5       A.     So a couple of the different things that we did  
6           initially was close off the existing portable  
7           toilets and requested brand-new sets of portable  
8           toilets to be brought on-site.   Provided health  
9           advisories to the individuals within the  
10          encampments, as well as immediate neighbors, so  
11          that they were aware of the presence of norovirus  
12          and how to combat it.   So increased handwashing,  
13          things of that nature.

14                 The Health Department also provided some  
15          instruction about food preparation to make sure  
16          that additional people would not be subjected to  
17          the norovirus.

18                 This site was already targeted for closure  
19          with a set closure date.   And then under the advice  
20          of the Health Department, we delayed closure until  
21          after they were able to confirm that there was no  
22          further risk of spread for norovirus into the  
23          community or to other individuals at other  
24          encampments.

25       Q.     Was there any communication or instruction to City

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1 law enforcement or emergency personnel about  
2 whether or how they should enter the camp -- enter  
3 Nenookaasi during the norovirus outbreak?

4 A. Yes. Our Health Department did provide basic  
5 instruction of what to do, what not to do. That  
6 was communicated during the unsheltered work group  
7 so that those departments that would engage at the  
8 encampment, whether it's the Homeless Response  
9 Team, Public Works, Solid Waste and Recycling Team,  
10 or Minneapolis Police Department, that they would  
11 each have first awareness, visibility into what to  
12 do and how to approach and if they needed to  
13 approach.

14 Q. I think I've got one -- one last section left, and  
15 then we'll let you go.

16 So I'm going to ask you some questions about  
17 the fire and the time period leading up to that at  
18 the -- I believe that is the fourth iteration of  
19 Nenookaasi. Yeah.

20 Do you know the names of -- of staff members,  
21 and which agency they belong to, of City  
22 representatives who visited Nenookaasi the week  
23 prior to February 28, 2024?

24 A. The week prior to February 28, 2024?

25 Q. So the fire was February 28, 2024.

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. The week leading up to it --

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. -- do you know who all went to the camp that week?

5 A. Yes. I just had to double-check the week prior.

6 Because I know just days before, I did have staff  
7 there, but I wasn't sure if that was the week prior  
8 because I don't pay attention to was it Sunday or  
9 Monday.

10 I did have staff there from Inspections  
11 Services, Fire Inspections Services. It was Fire  
12 Inspector Roger Kemp who visited that encampment.  
13 I believe there was a second individual, but I  
14 can't recall who that person was and -- but I did  
15 have two fire inspectors that were present.

16 Q. And what were they told? What were their  
17 instructions when they were sent to visit the camp?

18 A. Certainly. Let me start with the original reason  
19 why they were at the -- at the encampment.

20 So we received complaints from Allina Health  
21 Systems, which operated a -- a lab that was just  
22 adjacent to the encampment.

23 So the smoke from the fires that were at --  
24 going on at the encampment were not only causing  
25 air quality issues for -- for their clinic guests

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1       but also for staff, it was also interfering with  
2       their diagnostic equipment as they tried to run  
3       blood panels and a variety of other diagnostics  
4       for -- for their patients who were coming in.

5           So that was what precipitated the response  
6       from Fire Inspections Services. And I believe the  
7       plan was also to bring in Environmental Health from  
8       an air quality perspective so that both could do an  
9       inspection, could do outreach, and engage with the  
10      residents at this iteration of Camp Nenookaasi  
11      about the fires.

12           So part of it was -- part of that engagement  
13       was -- included identifying what kinds of materials  
14       they were burning, seeing if they could provide  
15       some recommendations around what materials to burn  
16       versus not burn and general fire safety.

17   Q.   And did you get a report back or any briefing or  
18       follow-up from those individuals after they made  
19       those visits?

20   A.   Yes. The report back I received from Fire  
21       Inspections was that they -- the encampment  
22       residents were burning a lot of materials that were  
23       not intended to be -- to be burned, that they  
24       provided advice and guidance on what materials  
25       could be burned, recognizing that any material they

1       burn is in violation of City ordinance since we do  
2       not allow recreational fires. But certain  
3       materials clearly should not be burned for risk of  
4       combustion.

5           And they identified a wall or a series of  
6       walls of propane tanks that were all gathered  
7       together not too far from a fire and advised that  
8       that needed to -- to be moved to prevent any sort  
9       of accident or injury or just unforeseen action.

10      Q.     Do you know if the residents responded to this  
11       advice or took any steps to address the concerns?

12      A.     From what I understand -- oh, one of the other  
13       pieces of advice that was provided was to ensure  
14       that there's somebody on fire watch, which is to  
15       say that at all hours of the day in which there are  
16       fires present, that somebody is -- within that  
17       encampment is on watch so that if there's a fire,  
18       if there's a spark, that that person can  
19       effectively sound the alarm to notify the rest of  
20       the residents in the area so that they have an  
21       opportunity to escape from a fire and preserve life  
22       safety. That's ult- -- ultimately what Fire  
23       Inspections Services is about, it's about the life  
24       safety.

25           So from that perspective, the residents

1 advised that they do have fire extinguishers. They  
2 needed more fire extinguishers. And they were  
3 planning on setting up fire watch around the clock,  
4 that somebody was always watching and that they  
5 would just formalize that.

6 Q. So residents -- you're saying residents, like,  
7 took -- took steps in response to these  
8 instructions or . . .

9 A. Yes. That's correct.

10 Q. Okay. And then we had the fire on February 28th.  
11 What investigation, if any, has taken place  
12 regarding the cause of that fire?

13 A. Yeah, when there's a fire such as this one, the  
14 City has two arson investigations units -- one  
15 within the police department, one within the fire  
16 department -- and they each conduct their  
17 investigations into the fire and into what's the  
18 cause of the fire and where to go from there.

19 From the police department investigation, the  
20 conclusion was basically that it's inconclusive of  
21 how the fire started because there was so much  
22 damage that was caused, and there were multiple  
23 potential sources of -- of spark that would have  
24 ignited the fire, just based off of what was  
25 present on the site.

1 Q. How -- how long do these two types of arson  
2 investigations typically take?

3 A. That's -- that's hard to really say on how long it  
4 would take. I guess it depends on the complexity  
5 of the fire and the structures and what -- what's  
6 present and more importantly, what remains of the  
7 structure of whatever was damaged in the fire to  
8 provide any sort of leading indicators.

9 In a case such as this one, with the entire  
10 area summarily destroyed, there was not much to  
11 investigate.

12 Q. So you said the -- the police department issued  
13 a -- a closed process -- or they -- they issued a  
14 finding that it was inconclusive.

15 Did the fire department come back with any  
16 kind of conclusion to their investigation?

17 A. Yeah. The fire department's conclusion is that  
18 there were multiple potential sources. And with  
19 the level of damage at the site, that it was also  
20 inconclusive as far as the source of the fire.

21 But ultimately, in -- in both instances,  
22 because the -- all these different sources and  
23 potential starts to the fire, arson was not  
24 suspected.

25 Q. And both of those investigations are closed at this

1 point?

2 A. Yes. That's correct.

3 Q. How were those investigations documented?

4 A. So jointly, there's about a 40-page report that  
5 covers both the -- the police arson investigation  
6 as well as the fire department arson investigation.  
7 And these are cataloged and uploaded to the Police  
8 Information Management System.

9 Q. The -- the police arson investigation, do you have  
10 names of individuals who prepared that report or  
11 conducted that investigation?

12 A. The arson investigator is Sergeant Mike Nimlos.

13 Q. How about the fire department?

14 A. That is -- I can't remember his title --  
15 Larry Oker.

16 Q. Was there any deviations between standard procedure  
17 for investigating a fire generally as opposed to  
18 how the fire at Nenookaasi was investigated from  
19 either investigation department?

20 A. No, not to my knowledge.

21 Q. How -- how long after the fire was the site  
22 cleared?

23 A. So the site remained exactly as it was post fire  
24 pending the conclusion of the investigations. And  
25 there's another element, which was from the Health

1 Department.

2 As a city, we weren't sure what was -- what  
3 materials were -- were being burned and what the  
4 environmental impact was, so we needed to wait  
5 until Environmental Health completed their  
6 Environmental Health Impact Assessment. I believe  
7 it was at least another week after the fact before  
8 that was concluded and then clearing took place at  
9 some point thereafter.

10 Q. Were there any investigations that took place  
11 regarding the arson or attempted arson in the week  
12 leading up to the February 28th fire?

13 A. Investigation into arson the week leading up to the  
14 fire?

15 Q. At Nenookaasi.

16 A. At Nenookaasi?

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. I'm aware that there was a response to a fire --  
19 not that there was suspected arson -- when the  
20 portable toilets burned.

21 Q. Yeah, could you -- could you go into that a little  
22 bit? What happened with the -- the porta-potty  
23 fire?

24 A. What happened with the porta-potty fire is, based  
25 on my recollection, that an individual started a

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1 small fire to keep themselves warm inside the  
2 porta-potty, and it's plastic. The material  
3 burned, and then the -- the chemicals inside the --  
4 the basin accelerated that -- the burn of that  
5 fire.

6 Q. Was that investigated and/or documented, that  
7 incident?

8 A. Making an assumption that it was. I mean, yes, it  
9 was investigated. Making an assumption that it was  
10 documented. I did not see the documentation.

11 Q. Did you see the -- the video of the guy?

12 A. No, I did not.

13 Q. Okay. Were you -- were you aware that there was  
14 video?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Is there anything that I haven't asked you  
17 that you think is relevant that you'd like to share  
18 about the City's response to Nenookaasi or  
19 houseless encampments in general?

20 A. Yeah, I can say that the City's response to  
21 unsheltered homelessness continues to evolve over  
22 time.

23 Where we are today is not where we were when  
24 the very first encampment formed along The Wall of  
25 Forgotten Natives along Highway 55.

1           Even with the first iteration of Nenookaasi at  
2       2313 13th Avenue South to where we are today, we  
3       continue to evolve. And I think we continue to  
4       evolve for the better while keeping residents at  
5       the center, while keeping our unsheltered neighbors  
6       at the center of -- of the conversation to find  
7       pathways to help them exercise their agency and  
8       move it from unstable housing into stable housing.  
9       So everything that we do is with that focus and  
10      with that mindset.

11           So every dollar we spend, every -- every  
12      action we take is so that we can make sure we  
13      realize that goal.

14 Q.     What are some of those evolutions, if you can  
15      describe it? How has -- how has the response  
16      evolved since The Wall of Forgotten Natives and  
17      since the beginning of Nenookaasi?

18 A.     Definitely. So since The Wall of Forgotten  
19      Natives, we now have a Homeless Response Team. We  
20      have funding. We have vehicles. We offer snacks  
21      and other services. We have storage, even though  
22      it's not -- not being utilized -- or it's  
23      underutilized. And we're looking to find different  
24      ways to bring storage into communities.

25           We didn't offer porta-potties for a period of

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1 time. Now we're offering those different types of  
2 services to address community livability.

3 We didn't offer trash service before. We  
4 offer that service because it detracts from  
5 community livability if we don't. It attracts  
6 nuisance. It attracts disease and -- and vermin  
7 if -- if we don't.

8 Having a dedicated liaison team with the  
9 Minneapolis Police Department that's active and  
10 engaged at encampments.

11 Having security cameras present at some of the  
12 larger encampments so that we at least can observe  
13 what's happening and -- and provide some sort of --  
14 even if it's latent, provide some level of response  
15 and reasonable assurance that we're targeting bad  
16 actors that engage in these spaces. We're not  
17 targeting people who are experiencing homelessness.

18 We engaged Helix to stand up a whole new  
19 supportive housing model that, I think, addresses a  
20 specific need that some of our un- -- unsheltered  
21 neighbors and residents have echoed that, "Hey, you  
22 know, this is our family. And we can't" -- "we  
23 don't" -- "we don't fit into any of these different  
24 buckets. Help us find a bucket that we can fit  
25 into."

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1           We've looked at Land -- Land Back. We're  
2 working on a variety of different initiatives with  
3 tribal nations to find pathways so that they can  
4 reclaim some of these different parcels of land and  
5 use them for a favorable purpose.

6           Engaging with individuals with lived  
7 experience. We're -- we're trying a lot of  
8 different ways. There's nothing that's off the  
9 table for us to get to a place where we can get to  
10 functional zero, which is there are no unsheltered  
11 individuals within the city.

12 Q.       Okay. I have one more question, and then I think  
13 we're -- I think we're done. Just something that  
14 you mentioned earlier that I was confused about.

15           Within the police department, is there like a  
16 Homeless Response Team equivalent that's -- that is  
17 housed with the police liaison at the law  
18 enforcement?

19 A.       Yes, that's right. That's right. So the -- they  
20 reside within the Office of Procedural Justice  
21 within the Minneapolis Police Department. It's  
22 under the command of Commander Monica Hanson.  
23 There's a lieutenant and then a sergeant who are  
24 both assigned to this -- this unit, and their sole  
25 focus is on unsheltered homelessness and encampment

1 response.

2 Q. Is it just those three individuals?

3 A. Yes. Those three are the fulcrum within the police  
4 department, and then they liaise with all the --  
5 the different precincts wherever additional support  
6 is needed.

7 Q. And the names of the other two individuals that are  
8 under the commander?

9 A. Lieutenant John Haugland and Sergeant  
10 William Martin.

11 Q. And their -- what's their kind of day to day --  
12 like, what -- what actually do they do?

13 A. So they engage with our unsheltered residents at  
14 encampments, field calls from community --  
15 community members, participate in community events  
16 and activities focused on public safety and  
17 encampment response.

18 They receive information from their crime  
19 analysts counterparts within the police department  
20 to evaluate what's happening, what's -- what's  
21 changing, receive information from precincts  
22 specifically for encampments on what's occurring  
23 with respect to our mobile cameras that are in  
24 place near larger encampments.

25 If situations escalate, they're the ones who

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1       are kind of the first in for those different  
2       situations for larger encampments. For smaller  
3       encampments, it's handled by the precinct level.

4           And as we -- they provide advice into the  
5       unsheltered homelessness work group, advice on  
6       public safety and what's the situation from a law  
7       enforcement lens.

8           For the encampments, crimes that are being  
9       experienced or perpetrated on community, they  
10      develop and prepare the briefing when we get to the  
11      day of closure and lead that effort for closure.

12     Q.    Okay.

13     A.    So, yeah --

14     Q.    And their --

15     A.    -- they're that -- that central fulcrum.

16     Q.    And their range is the whole city of Minneapolis?

17     A.    Yes. That's right.

18     Q.    Got it.

19           MS. KELLEY: I realize my follow-up  
20       question was really a follow-up question with  
21       several subparts. Thanks for bearing with me.

22           I think -- I think that's a wrap. Really  
23       appreciate your time, Mr. Velazquez, and your  
24       knowledge that you've shared with us.

25           THE WITNESS: Thank you. Yeah, I

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1 appreciate the opportunity.

2 MS. ENSLIN: Well, we will -- we will  
3 read and sign then, Melissa.

4 (The videoconference Rule 30(b)(6)

5 deposition concluded at 3:16 p.m.)

6 (The original transcript has been  
7 delivered to Ms. Kelley.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E  
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3 I, Melissa A. Chamberlin, RPR, hereby certify that  
4 I am qualified as a verbatim shorthand reporter, that I  
5 took in stenographic shorthand the videoconference  
6 Rule 30(b) (6) deposition under oath of **City of**  
**Minneapolis** by its designee **Enrique Velazquez**, at the  
7 time and place aforesaid;

8 That the transcript consisting of 225 pages is a  
9 true and correct, full and complete transcription of the  
10 testimony of this witness, to the best of my ability and  
11 given the quality of the audio in the videoconference  
12 Rule 30(b) (6) deposition setting;

13 That the review of the transcript was requested;

14 That the cost of the original transcript has been  
15 charged to the party who noticed the videoconference  
16 Rule 30(b) (6) deposition and that all parties who ordered  
17 copies have been charged at the same rate for such  
18 copies;

19 That I am not a relative or employee of any of the  
20 parties or a relative or employee of any of the  
21 attorneys;

22 That I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in  
23 this action and have no contract with the parties or  
24 attorneys or persons with an interest in this action;

25 Witness my hand and seal this 26th day of  
December, 2024.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Melissa A. Chamberlin  
28 Registered Professional Reporter

29 My Commission Expires: 01/31/2025

1                   VIDEOCONFERENCE RULE 30(b)(6) DEPOSITION  
2                   CORRECTION SHEET

3 CASE TITLE: Sagataw, et al. vs. Frey  
4 DEPOSITION DATE: December 10, 2024

5                   I, **Enrique Velazquez**, having read my deposition, do  
6 hereby certify that I have read the preceding pages of my  
7 deposition and find the same to be true and correct  
8 (except as follows:)

| PAGE NO. | LINE NO.   | CORRECTION/CHANGE | REASON            |
|----------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| 7        |  |                   |                   |
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| 19       | DATED:   | _____             | _____             |
| 20       |  |                   | Enrique Velazquez |
| 21       | <b>RETURN PROCEDURE:</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| 22       | * Return <b>this</b> correction sheet directly to Attorney |                   |                   |
| 23       | Kira Kelley, Climate Defense Project, P.O. Box 7040,       |                   |                   |
| 24       | Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407 <b>January 30, 2025</b> .     |                   |                   |
| 25       | Please retain a copy for your records.                     |                   |                   |
|          | * Please email a copy to Melissa A. Chamberlin, RPR, at    |                   |                   |
|          | machamberlin04@gmail.com. Thank you.                       |                   |                   |

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